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Nurse turns Soudelor experience into book. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Runway lights problem causes flight delays and cancellations

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Inbound flights to Saipan were either delayed or cancelled after the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport experienced some problems with its runway lights. The problem began last Friday as the lights at runway 7/25, the Saipan airport's main runway, were not working at full capacity.

The problem continued the entire weekend with a number of employees from the Public School System and Saipan residents being stranded in Guam after their connecting flights were

See RUNWAY on Page 4

JOAN L. TAITANO

The LienHoota Dance Group gives a lively dance performance to the crowd's delight during last Saturday's SOU' Fest 2016 at the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot.

Hegland: Saipan came out stronger after Soudelor

By JOAN L. TAITANO
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REPOPRTER

Throngs of people descended to the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot last Saturday to commemorate the first anniversary of Typhoon Soudelor.

Spearheaded by the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts CNMI, SOU' Fest 2016 was a memorable evening punctuated by inspiring remarks, good food, exciting games, and lively entertainment.

Seeing the crowd in attendance during SOU' Fest 2016, CARE director Jenny Hegland was "touched and pleasantly surprised by the public's support."

"SOU' Fest 2016 was not only created to commemorate the first anniversary of Typhoon Soudelor, but it also to celebrate the culture and heritage of the island."

When asked if SOU' Fest could become an annual celebration,

See HEGLAND on Page 4

Manglona sets new motion hearing date in CUC's, CW-1 workers' lawsuit

» From Aug. 12, motion hearing now moved to Sept. 9

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has set for Sept. 9, 2016 at 9am the new hearing date in a motion for preliminary relief filed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its 13 foreign workers who are suing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and others for not acting on their CNMI-

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BUSINESS
Years of steady job gains have finally begun to benefit a wider range of Americans, including those with less education and in lower-paying jobs.
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Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte publicly linked more than 150 judges, mayors, lawmakers, police and military personnel to illegal drugs.
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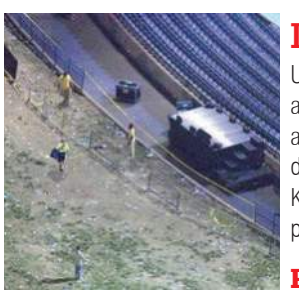

LIFE & STYLE
Upcoming concerts will go on as scheduled at an amphitheater where a railing collapsed during a Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa concert, injuring 42 people.
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Local

Priest says he was told to say prayers for abusing boys

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— A 95-year-old Catholic priest admitted to sexually abusing boys decades ago on Guam. He said he confessed his sins to other priests on the island at the time but none told him to specifically stop.

Instead, the Rev. Louis Brouillard said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Saturday morning that the other priests told him to "do better" along with regular penance, such as saying Hail Mary prayers.

Brouillard served in Guam from the 1940s through the 1970s, teaching at San Vicente and Father Duenas Memorial schools while he was a priest. He said he molested "a couple of boys" during that time.

However, when pressed on how many boys he might have abused, Brouillard said: "I have no idea. Maybe 20."

"At that time, when I was that age, I got the impression that kids liked it, so I went ahead. But now of course, I know it's wrong and I'm paying for it," Brouillard said.

Leo B. Tudela, 73, emotionally testified about what he said was abuse by Brouillard in the mid-1950s during a hearing this week in the Guam Legislature. Tudela urged senators to support legislation that would lift the statute of limitations for lawsuits against those who sexually abused children. It's now two years.

Brouillard said he didn't remember Tudela.

Brouillard's admissions come after three former altar boys and the mother of another filed a $2 million libel and slander lawsuit against former Guam Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron and the archdiocese, saying they were called liars when they raised allegations that Apuron sexually abused boys in the 1970s.

Apuron has denied the abuse and not been charged with any crime. The Vatican appointed Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai as a temporary administrator after the allegations surfaced.

After the allegations against Brouillard were first reported by the Pacific Daily News this week, Hon released a statement: "With the news that Father Louis Brouillard, a priest who served on Guam confessed to having abused altar boys on Guam in the 1950s, I convey my deepest apologies and that of the entire church to Mr. Leo Tudela and all other persons who were also victimized."

Hon also directed church investigators to speak with Tudela and others who have raised allegations of sexual abuse.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they are victims of sex abuse, but Tudela gave his testimony at a public hearing.

Brouillard said he hasn't been defrocked, and lives in Pine City, Minnesota, on a small pension from the church in Guam. He said he has volunteered with the local Meals on Wheels program for 30 years as atonement.

He said he never sought to silence his victims, and he offers daily prayers to the boys he molested.

"I regret with all my heart that I did anything wrong to them," he said. "I am praying for the boys and hope that they can forgive me and that God can."

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Korean students pepper Apatang with questions

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of Korean students visited Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang last Friday afternoon where the local chief executive and his special assistant, Henry Hofschneider, gamely answered questions that they asked them.

Costa World Tour president Choi Yeon Tae accompanied the group of 14 students and their two teachers, The group is attending Costa's annual Wow Camp on Saipan.

"We welcome you to the island to the beautiful island of Saipan. It was unfortunate that you arrived here with this kind of weather since there's a storm," said Apatang. Saipan experienced heavy downpour the past few days last week due to Typhoon Omais.

"The forecast say the weather will clear up on Monday and you will enjoy sunny days ahead. I hope you enjoy your stay and hopefully share these experiences to your friends and families when you get back to Korea. Any questions?" added Apatang.

The questions ranged from the easy, like why did he ran for mayor and how big is Saipan's population to the hard on about the CNMI's economy, politics, and problems on crime. Apatang and Hofschneider gamely answered the questions to the best of their abilities.

"Our main industry comes from tourism. The revenues from the tourists and the hotel taxes help the government. Korea, China, and Japan are the more frequent visitors. More tourists mean more money. So, help us in promoting our islands," Apatang said when asked what industry does the CNMI have.

Asked why did he run for Mayor of Saipan: "I really wanted to serve the people. My heart is to serve the community. I have two more years to serve as mayor. If you've done a good as mayor, then the people will again vote for you. If you don't, goodbye," Apatang said that drew giggles from the students.

"Being a mayor is a very challenging job and since people call starting at 7:30am to ask for assistance. We try to help as many people as we can. It is a stressful job but I enjoy every minute of it," added Apatang.

He also told the group about the devastation Saipan experienced during Typhoon Soudelor. "In August last year, Saipan experienced a powerful typhoon, Soudelor. The strong winds brought down trees and power poles, and damaged or destroyed homes. It is only now that we are picking up the pieces with the help of the entire community."

How to take care of the environment? Hofschneider said: "The CNMI has a lot of natural resources. We have laws to protect them with the Coastal Resources Management and Division of Fish and Wildlife as some of the lead agencies in helping take care of the environment."

"We do not allow people to take coral and some sanctuaries are no catching of fish and no swimming zones. We want to protect the fish and corals since they are an important part of our environment," Hofschneider added.

"It was great to know that you kids are interested in a lot of things. Hopefully, we would see you again. We hope you encourage your parents to come and visit us because we wanted to see more visitors here in the CNMI. If ever you come back, come and visit us here at the Mayor's Office," said Apatang.

The Saipan Mayor's Office then gave the group souvenirs like key chains and other items that would remind them about their trip to Saipan.

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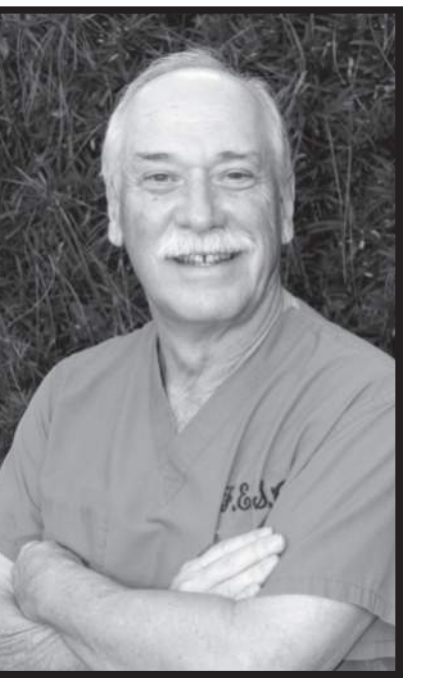

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Woman indicted for entering secure area at airport

» She also removed baggage from Customs custody

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman was indicted on Friday in federal court for entering a secure area at the Saipan International Airport and removing goods from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody last year.

The indictment charged Jingbo Chen, also known as Jingbo San Nicolas and Kim, with one count of removing goods from Customs custody and one count of entering a secure area at an airport by false pretenses.

According to the indictment, Chen knowingly and unlawfully removed baggage in the custody and control of U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Sept. 15, 2015.

Through false statements and the use of her official uniform and access badge while off-duty, Chen entered a secure area at the Saipan International Airport with the intent to commit a felony by removing goods from Customs custody.

The indictment did not mention the defendant's job at the time she allegedly committed the offenses. The indictment also did not indicate the contents of the baggage.

MANGLONA

From Page 1

only transitional workers (CW-1) permit renewals.

Manglona set the new hearing date after the parties in the lawsuit filed a stipulated briefing schedule on plaintiffs CUC's and its 13 foreign workers' amended motion for a preliminary injunctive relief.

In approving the parties' stipulated briefing schedule, Manglona ordered DHS Secretary Johnson and co-defendants to file their opposition, if any, on or before 2pm on Aug. 20.

CUC and its 13 foreign workers are given until on or before 12pm on Sept. 2 to file their reply to opposition, if any.

Last July 22, Manglona approved the parties' agreed upon briefing schedule related to plaintiffs' motion for injunctive relief, including a temporary restraining order. She then set the TRO hearing for Aug. 12.

Last Thursday, CUC and its 13 foreign workers amended their motion to request preliminary injunctive relief only.

As a result, Manglona held a chambers conference on that day, Thursday. Pursuant to that chambers conference, the parties then submitted a stipulated request for a new hearing date and briefing schedule. The judge approved the request.

In CUC's and its 13 foreign workers' notice of amended motion for injunctive relief, attorney James S. Sirok said at their request and with the defendants' agreement, temporary injunctive relief was not issued and considered prior to the hearing then set for Aug. 12.

Sirok said the parties have now agreed that this matter is to proceed and be heard pursuant to the motion for injunctive relief, as an application for a preliminary injunction.

Sirok said the parties continue to agree and stipulate that the hearing on plaintiffs' motion should not be consolidated with a trial on the merits because of the need of both parties to first develop and present to the court factual scenarios related to the merits of plaintiffs' lawsuit.

Sirok said these factual scenarios cannot be developed and presented to the court for its final consideration of the merits of the lawsuit without the testimony of certain defendants, or certain members of the defendants' staff, and other key witnesses.

Sirok said plaintiffs' request for preliminary injunctive relief continues to be based on the conduct of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, acting in coordination with DHS and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in failing to consider CUC's petitions for the renewal of the 13 CW-1 transitional workers.

Sirok said the defendants also failed to comply with the requirements of Title VII of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 when it set the annual numerical limitations (cap) for CW-1 workers working the NMI for the Fiscal Years 2013 through 2016 without first establishing and administering a regulated "system" for this purpose and without taking into consideration the various legislatively mandated standards required to be considered by DHS and UCIS prior to adopting those annual numeral limitations.

Sirok earlier stated that the court's ruling on their lawsuit will be applicable to the thousands of CW-1 workers and their employers who are also affected by the CW-1 cap system. Many affected CW-1 workers and employers are waiting for the outcome of the hearing.

Sirok said while CUC and its affected CW-1 workers bring this lawsuit on their own behalf, and not as a class action, the court's ruling on their request for injunctive relief, as well as on the underlying merits of the case, will be applicable to the thousands of CW-1 workers and their employers who are currently in the same positions.

CUC and its 13 foreign workers affected by CW-1 cap setting system are suing Johnson, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah R. Saldana, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez.

Sirok alleged that the failure of USCIS to make a determination on the CW renewal petitions violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sirok alleged that plaintiffs have suffered a legal wrong because of the conduct of defendants DHS and USCIS in setting the annual CW-1 caps for fiscal years 2013 through 2016.

Sirok said CUC will be adversely affected by the loss of these CW-1 workers in its ability to maintain and operate its power generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sirok asked the court to declare that the failure of USCIS to render a determination on the CW-1 renewal petitions for the 13 workers was unlawful, contrary to law, and in violation of plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

CUC employs over 300 workers, including 42 nonresident workers.

Sirok said the foreign workers' work force within CUC is an essential and necessary workforce needed for the utility to provide power, water, and wastewater utility services to the CNMI.

DHS set the CW-1 caps for FY 2013 at 15,000 and for FY 2014 at 14,000. For FYs 2015 and 2016, the caps were set at 13,999 and 12,999, respectively.

HEGLAND

From Page 1

Hegland responds, "For now SOU' Fest 2016 was just a one-time event, but there's always a possibility of this event to occur again in the future."

Various local food vendors offered delicious food to the community, while local artists such as LienHoota and Avalei Ori Dance Group offered the audience exciting dance numbers. Some government agencies such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Division of Youth Services, and National Weather Service Guam also offered the public information that might be of help when disaster strikes.

Some of the highlights of SOU' Fest were the performances from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' press secretary Ivan Blanco and 2016 Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua during the Karaoke Showdown.

The event closed with the local band, Uprooted, featuring A.J. Mettao and other local artists. The band performed original songs that stemmed from their personal experiences during Soudelor. They offered songs of hope and strength for the people of Saipan amidst the havoc Souledor wrought last year.

HANMI donates $5K to CARE

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands donated $5,000 to the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts during SOU' Fest.

HANMI chair and Marianas Resort Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh said, "There are still families that are living in tents and their houses awaiting repairs. This is just a small amount but it's a start."

Aside from the $5,000 that HANMI is going to donate, Marianas Resort also donated an additional $500.

Since being devastated by Typhoon Soudelor last Aug. 2, 2015, necessary upgrades to houses are being implemented so as the disastrous aftermath is not as severe. "We're going to work around the clock to make sure the houses that are going to be built are sustainable and typhoon proof," said American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch.

During SOU' Fest '16, the Crisis Counseling Program provided necessary aid to the victims of Typhoon Soudelor. The CCP was started with the goal of providing aid to victims of the typhoon.

The CCP has been in motion since September of 2015 and ever since then, thousands of people have already received aid. "We've been working since September last year. There are still a lot of people in need and right now the Community Guidance Center is helping us," said Jayra Manglona, a CCP team leader.

Unfortunately, the CCP will end by September but efforts to provide aid would be continued by the American Red Cross and CARE. "We are in the phase down process and we're passing down the torch to long term unit and recover to American Red Cross and CARE," said Jeff Tomokane, another CCP team leader.

Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Hegland, Hirsh, and Office of the Governor public information specialist L.J. Castro were just some of the known personalities who attended SOU' Fest 2016. ***(With reports from Erwin Encinares)***

Military exercises at W-517

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. military unit will be conducting military exercises at Area W-517 Irregular Poly-Gon South of Guam on Aug. 12 from 7am to 2pm.

The general location of this activity will be at Area W-517 Irregular Poly-Gon South of Guam comprising southwest into International waters.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from these areas during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operation Center-Dispatch Center at telephone number (670) 237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

RUNWAY

From Page 1

cancelled because the runway lights were not working.

Runway 7/25 is the Saipan airport's main runway and was last renovated in 2009 after more than 25 years of operations.

Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Christopher S. Tenorio, in a statement released also last Friday, said the lights at Runway 7/25 were working but not at full capacity. He added that they already asked the help of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"CPA coordinated with CUC to provide an electrician who is familiar with the airport's electrical system to conduct an assessment of the airfield lighting. The assessment is ongoing at this time," Tenorio said.

He added the CPA published a Notice to Airmen, or NOTAM, at around noon last Friday advising all carriers servicing the Saipan airport of the lighting situation at runway 7/25 and left it to airlines if they would want to go on with their flight schedules to Saipan.

"CPA is not closing the airport nor its runway but with the NOTAM issued to the public, it is now the airlines' discretion in coordination with the Air Traffic Control Tower whether to continue service to Saipan, divert or cancel their flights," Tenorio said.

CPA officials also met with airport tenants at 1pm last Friday to inform them of the current situation and that they already released a NOTAM.

"Once more information is provided based on the assessment or when the runway lights are again working at 100 percent intensity, CPA will again advise all concerned," Tenorio added.

Press Secretary Ivan Blanco, in a text message to the *Saipan Tribune*, said they are now coordinating with CPA and are also asking for updates.

"We're still checking with CPA. We can't release any statement until we get the full report from CPA. We're trying to know the cause and find solutions to these kinds of problems," added Blanco.

In July last year, a massive network communications blackout happened after IT&E's fiber optic cable was damaged causing flight cancellations by major airlines. On Aug. 17, 2015, and almost two weeks after Typhoon Soudelor, more than 300 passengers were stranded on Saipan after eight flights going to Guam were diverted to the Saipan airport due to Typhoon Goni.

Late last year, the Saipan airport only allowed daytime flights to operate for almost a week after the runway and taxiway experienced blackout caused by a fire that broke out in one of hand holes.

Last December, the Saipan airport's runway lighting system also suffered similar problems with an Airbus 330 failing to land after only 30 percent of the runway's lights were lit. Rats were to blame for that problem.

Hong Kong Airlines, Philippine Airlines Express, and Jin Air are the latest air carriers that began their operations to Saipan in the last two months. Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Asiana Airlines, and Jeju Airlines are the other airlines that offer flights to Saipan.

Non-profit corp. seeks to open CNMI's first drug and alcohol rehab center

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A non-profit organization headed by Marianas Counseling Services counselor Chris Sablan is planning to open the CNMI's first drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in As Perdido, Saipan.

CNMI Zoning Office administrator Therese T. Ogumoro in an interview said the Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc.'s request for conditional use permit will be entertained by the Zoning Board at a public hearing on Thursday, Aug. 11, at 5pm.

Ogumoro said if the project pushes through, it will be the first drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in the CNMI.

In its application for zoning conditional use permit, Marianas Behavioral is proposing to develop the former Cultural Center in lower As Perdido into a recovery residence center for drug and alcohol counseling for a maximum of eight patients.

The site area containing 1,817 square meters is zoned as rural district.

The company estimated $15,000 as budget of the project, including cost of material, labor, planning, engineering, and studies.

The Zoning Board encouraged the public to comment on the company's proposal at the hearing.

Marianas Behavioral Health International Inc. vice president D.J. Sablan in a phone interview on Friday said hopefully the CNMI will soon have the first drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities.

D.J. Sablan said Marianas Behavioral is a non-profit corporation and has board members.

He said they are waiting right now for the budget from the Legislature to be approved.

He said Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres has to approve the budget.

"That's the target. Once we get funding from the government we will open," said D.J. Sablan, adding that they are eyeing September or October 2016 as their opening.

In his remarks during the graduation ceremony for police cadets last week, Torres announced that he has committed $1 million in his budget proposal to establishing a substance abuse treatment center to go alongside the newly established drug court.

Torres also disclosed that he has asked the Legislature to provide an additional $1 million from the casino gross revenue tax this year to the Community Guidance Center to work toward treatment of alcohol and substance abuse illness immediately.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings go out to Janvir Montano Castaneda who celebrated his 7th birthday last Aug. 4. We love you baby! Greetings coming from the family.

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Nurse turns Soudelor experience into book

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Riza Oledan-Ramos and her family were just spending their typical Sunday on the night of Aug. 2 last year. With their two kids, who were 14 and 4 at that time, already sleeping, they decided to just relax before starting another full week of work.

They knew then that there was an approaching typhoon—Soudelor—so they decided to stay at home and watch previous episodes of the hit series *The Walking Dead*.

"I even texted my manager at the hospital if we're going to report to work the following day, because if it's Typhoon Condition 1, we're closed," said Oledan-Ramos, who works as a staff nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center's Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Dialysis.

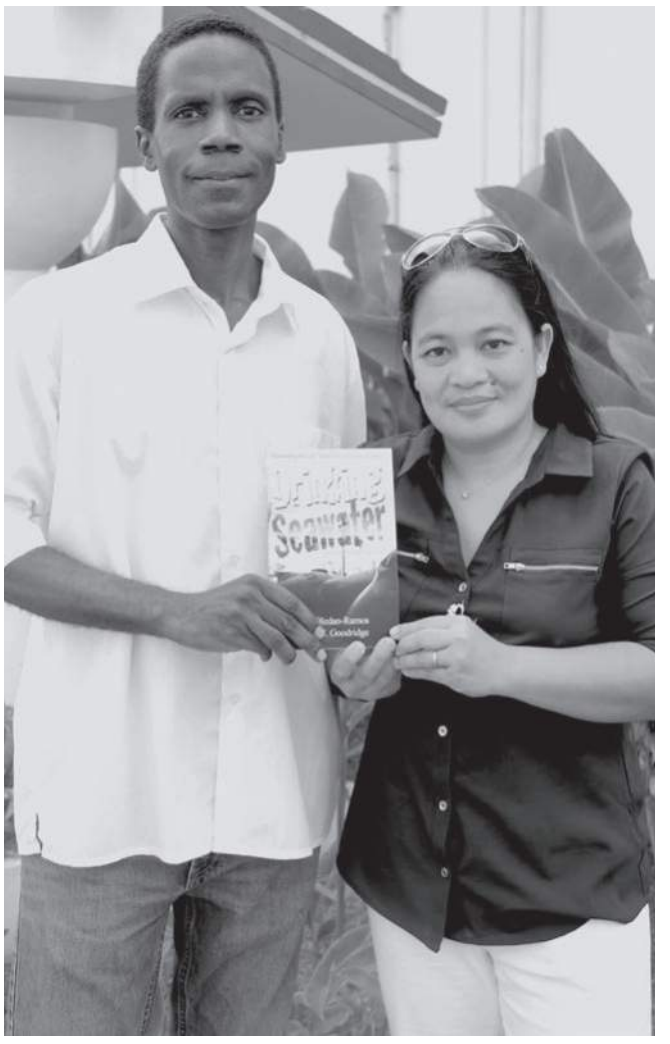
Like everyone else on Saipan, Oledan-Ramos and her husband Ding did not prepare since the previous typhoons were not that strong and caused no or little damage to the island.

Around quarter to 11pm, and in the middle of the show they're watching, their walls started to vibrate as Soudelor's strong winds—packing sustained winds of 130mph and as much as 180mph—pounded Saipan.

Water soon poured inside their home. "We didn't notice that the roof of our home was blown away. It was dark and the rain kept on pouring. My husband told me 'go get the kids and we're leaving,'" said Oledan-Ramos.

They were living near San Jose Church and the entire area was already submerged in water. "It was like an ocean. We got into our car but we got stuck near Golden Harvest International School. All that time I kept on praying, 'Lord keep us safe and Lord not now.'"

Her husband thought of going to Northern Marianas College since it is higher ground but they got out after their car got stuck and tried to look for cover. "It was really pitch dark, then I saw a flicker of light. We headed toward that direction. We're wet and we're running barefoot."



JON PEREZ

Commonwealth Health Center staff nurse Riza Oledan-Ramos and Walt F.J. Goodrige hold up the former's newest book *Drinking Seawater: of storms and survival* that documented her family's harrowing experience during Typhoon Soudelor.

They sought help from the residents of the first concrete house they saw. "My husband seemed to almost knock down the door. He was really banging hard and after two minutes the couple who lived there opened the door and let us in."

It was these "Good Samaritans" that helped the Ramos family during their time of need. "They fed us, gave us dry clothes, and let us sleep in their house. I didn't know their names and it was the following day that formal introductions were made."

Experiencing one of the most devastating typhoons to hit Saipan, the Ramos family joined hundreds of other individuals on Saipan that experienced Soudelor's fury that fateful day. It was this traumatic experience that Oledan-Ramos used as a driving force in writing *Drinking Seawater: of storms and survival.*

The book was a product of Walt F.J. Goodrige's workshop. It was supposed to be a collaborative experience of all the participants but she already wrote 158 pages with her rough draft in just three weeks. It was then that Goodridge approached her with the idea of publishing what she wrote.

"Even me, I can't believe that I finished writing the book in three weeks. I just sat in front of our computer and poured all my ideas and thoughts. Even after my 10-hour shift at work, and me still wearing scrubs."

The book contained all of their experiences and struggles, during and after the typhoon. From the time they left their house, finding shelter, surviving the storm, and getting in line just to seek Food Stamps and aid from the CNMI Chapter of the American Red Cross to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Her father gave her the idea for the title after she told him, during one of their telephone conversations after the storm, that U.S. Marines have been turning seawater to drinking water. "My father told me, 'that's amazing. You're drinking seawater. I didn't know the Marines could do that.'"

Oledan-Ramos grew up in Biliran, Samar in Eastern Visayas in the Philippines that has also its own share of strong typhoons. She arrived on Saipan in 2006. *Drinking Seawater* is available at Bestseller and Amazon.

USDA NRCS

Notice of Public Meeting

A USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2016, from 1-3 PM (Hawaii Standard Time) at:

USDA-NRCS State Office Conference Room.
Prince Johah Kuhio Kalanianaole Federal Bldg.
300 Ala Moana Blvd, Room 4-118
Honolulu, HI 96850

The purpose is to solicit public input by USDA officials, who are charged with implementing and establishing priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs under Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 including, but not limited to ACEP, CREP, CRP, CSP, EQIP, CIG, RCPP and Conservation of Private Grazing Lands.

Alternate meeting access is through ATT Connect Web Conferencing. Contact: Cheryl Morton, (808) 541-2600 ext. 105 or Nicola Giardina at (808) 541-2600 ext. 155.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's, Nicola Giardina at (808) 541-2600, Ext. 155, by Monday, August 15, 2016.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education through their Early Intervention Coordinating Council (ICC) is hereby service notice to the general public that it will hold its Meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 9am to 11am at the C*DAC Office, Garapan, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

CNMI Public School System
Interagency Coordinating Council
Agenda

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

I. **Meeting Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
- Presence of Quorum
- Adoption of Minutes

III. **Coordinator's Report**
- 2016 Determination
- 2016 Grant Application

IV. **SSIP Phase III Upcoming Activities**
- Evaluation Forms

V. **Open Discussion**
VI. **Meeting Adjourned**

In accordance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) individuals who wish to attend this meeting but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters, must call 664-4841. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan
President

/s/ Robin Palacios
Interim Coordinator
Early Intervention Program

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Habitual offender gets maximum jail term for yelling, threatening man

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has imposed the maximum sentence of six months imprisonment on Calistro Crisostomo, a habitual offender who entered a guilty plea for yelling and threatening a man.

Camacho accepted Crisostomo's guilty plea to the offense of disturbing the peace.

Camacho ordered the 32-year-old Crisostomo to serve the prison term day for day, without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, or work release.

The defendant was given credit for 42 days of time served.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Crisostomo yelled and threatened Cheyenne Sablan, causing him to feel scared, leave the house, and seek help from police on June 18, 2016, on Saipan. Sablan is the boyfriend of Crisostomo's sister.

Last July 5, the Office of the Attorney General charged Crisostomo with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The OAG later filed a petition to revoke probation of Crisostomo in his three previous criminal convictions with a possible maximum sentence of 13 years.

Last Aug. 1, OAG moved to withdraw the government's petition to revoke the probation, stating that the Commonwealth believes that pursuing this revocation proceeding is not in the best interests of the Commonwealth. The court granted the motion.

Last Aug. 1, OAG amended the information charging the defendant with only disturbing the peace, an offense that has a maximum sentence of six months imprisonment.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds said the government can only prove the charge of disturbing the peace.

The judge said OAG only stated that Crisostomo will serve six months in this case for disturbing the peace because he was already on probation when he committed the new offense of disturbing the peace.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark is counsel for Crisostomo. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Orientation for New & Readmitted Students

August 12, 2016
Orientation for International Students

Math & English Placement Dates

August 5, 9, 11, 2016
9:30am

August 8, 10, 12, 2016
1:30pm

First Day of Class

August 22, 2016

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Kilili: Law change gives PSS additional $4.3M

A change in the funding formula for schools in U.S. territories under a new law replacing the No Child Left Behind Act will result in an additional $4.3 million in funding for the Public School System, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Speaking in last week's Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle, Sablan said, "We got that increase into the new law that replaces No Child Left Behind. [Northern] Marianas' school funding should go up at least $4.3 million, for a total of $11 million next year, and every year thereafter, because of that change."

Although it took about seven years for the change to materialize, Sablan explained to other members of Congress that schools in the Northern Marianas needed more financial help from the federal government because there are so many students who came from low-income families. For this reason, "helping our students and our schools is always at the top of our to-do list."

Sablan also named a few examples of students from the Northern Marianas who have achieved educational success as of the present time.

For example, he said in 2015, there were 11 recipients of the Gates Millennium Scholars, two of which are summer interns at Stanford University and University of Virginia. In addition, Sablan has also met a young man who is going to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall under a full scholarship.

He said another man visited him in Washington, D.C. and said he was finishing his masters in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. Finally, Sablan also received a note last July from a woman who is finishing her Ph.D and starting a fellowship in Congress. He says, "Think about that a community of just 50,000 people, producing so many high achieving students."

All these achievements from students in the Northern Marianas, according to Sablan, should give the community "so much hope for our future." He says, "This is why I believe that we can tackle our problems and solve them. And that is why we will continue to keep education at the top of our action list." ***(Joan L. Taitano)***

CUC releases update to health advisory for chemical contaminants

On May 19, 2016 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued nationwide drinking water health advisories regarding two chemical contaminants: perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

These health advisories are based on the latest science available and help local water systems and regulatory agencies take appropriate steps to address PFOA and PFOS if needed.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has removed seven of its wells from contributing water to the CUC Saipan water distribution system and is monitoring the quality of water that comes from the Isley Reservoir and Isley Booster 1 near the Saipan International Airport to minimize exposure to these two chemicals. PFOS and PFOA are human-made substances and are not naturally found in the environment. They have been used extensively in commercial goods (carpets, clothing, furniture, paper packaging for food) and in materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains such as cookware. They are also used in firefighting foams at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer. While consumer products are a large source of exposure to these chemicals, drinking water can be an additional source in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting. EPA has established lifetime health advisories of 70 parts per trillion for individual or combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. The health advisories include a margin of protection from adverse health effects when consumed at these levels over a lifetime. Studies indicate that exposure to PFOA and PFOS over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes). CUC conducted two rounds of sampling of its drinking water supply in 2015 as part of an effort to test for unregulated contaminants (PFOA and PFOS are both unregulated contaminants). While there was no detection of PFOA and PFOS in most of the 23 locations sampled from the CUC Saipan distribution system, there were three (3) locations where PFOA and PFOS were detected above the new 70 parts per trillion health advisory concentration amount that EPA issued on Thursday May 19, 2016. Two of the locations where PFOA and PFOS were detected above the 70 parts per trillion health advisory level are all near the Saipan International Airport. Water from these locations are distributed to the villages of Afetnas, San Antonio, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Oleai, San Jose, Chalan Laulau, Iliying, Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Kanat Tabla and Fina Sisu (see map below of affected areas).Results ranged from 97 parts per trillion to 310 parts per trillion.

The third location well IF-208, serving the Airport Rescue Firefighting Facility, had the highest concentration of combined PFOS and PFOA of 7,220 parts per trillion, and was removed from contributing water to the general CUC distribution system on May 20, 2016. In an effort to determine the level, scope, and source of contamination, CUC conducted additional sampling of ground water sources (not just water distribution locations) in June 2016. CUC received the results in late July 2016 and with consultation and oversight from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) determined that there were six additional wells that were contributing significant amounts of PFOS to the water distribution system. On July 29, 2016 CUC removed those six wells from service. It is believed that removing these wells from service will eliminate the elevated PFOS contamination at Isley Reservoir and Isley Booster 1. CUC collected additional samples on August 1, 2016 to ensure that the removal of the wells from service is effective and will notify the public of the results by the end of August. CUC is taking these actions to help the general public limit their lifetime exposure to these chemicals. For more information about PFOA and PFOS visit EPA's webpage https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos or contact the BECQ Safe Drinking Water Program at (670) 664-8500.

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(4) An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system
(5) A homeless individual, a runaway, an individual who is in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act, or an individual who is an out-of-home placement
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Firefighter completes FEMA certification

Firefighter II Francisco O. Iginoef completed the International Public Safety Leadership and Ethics Institute and Phi Theta Kappa Facilitator Certification held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Training Center in Emmetsburg, Maryland last June 26.

The training is based on IPSLEI's and PTK's award winning ethical leadership development curriculum. The dynamic and unique curriculum uses a humanities approach to assist in simplifying the complexities of leadership in a multifaceted inter-dependent world.

Iginoef, from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, gained insight and experience in the adult learning processes through use of the Socratic method of dialogue, experiential activities, case study methodology, and the value of transformational reflection as a means to personal and organizational leadership development.

Iginoef's participation in this training demonstrates the CNMI Department of Fire and EMS's commitment and supports in enhancing the training and skills of its personnel to meeting or exceeding recognized national standards, policies and procedures.

In October 2015, Iginoef completed the Pro-Board Instructor Certification in Guam. The Pro Board Instructor certification expands his teaching credentials and skills in the wider field of Fire Operations. Iginoef will be team teaching an upcoming Pro Board Fire Inspector 1 class with Guam Fire Captain Ronald Castro. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Firefighter II Francisco O. Iginoef recently completed a Federal Emergency Management Agency certification in Maryland.

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RECRUITMENT DAY

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Steward	60
Trainee (Chinese / Western Kitchen)	15
Commis II (Chinese / Western Kitchen)	20
Commis I (Chinese / Western Kitchen)	30
Demi Chef (Chinese / Western Kitchen)	10
Chef de Partie (Chinese / Western Kitchen)	10
Junior Sous Chef	5
Bartender	50
Bar Back	35
Sever I / Server II	20
Supervisor - Western / Chinese	15
Demi Chef - Cold / Main Kitchen	6
Demi Chef - Noodle / Employee Dining Room	4
Sous Chef - Cold / Main Kitchen	2
Sous Chef - Noodle / Employee Dining Room	5
Chef de Partie - Noodle / Employee Dining Room	11
Commis I - Cold / Main Kitchen	2
Commis I - Noodle / Employee Dining Room	11
Chef de Cuisine - Cold / Main Kitchen	2
Chef de Cuisine - Noodle / Employee Dining Room	2

HOTEL OPERATIONS

Assistant Executive Housekeeper	2
Assistant Manager - Public Area	2
Bell Person	4
Door Person	8
Inventory Clerk	2
Linen Attendant	20
Public Area Attendant	56
Room Attendant	58
Supervisor - Butler Services	11
Supervisor – Housekeeping	13
Supervisor – Laundry	3
Supervisor – Linen	3
Supervisor - Public Area	12
Supervisor – Wardrobe	4

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Will the mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 ever be solved?

Secrets don't keep the way they once did. Technology sees to that. Everyone knows too much, monitors too much, backs up too much data to allow modern mysteries to linger.

So if street crime can be solved using video evidence, and a lost smartphone can be located via tracking software, there is no way a passenger jet with 239 souls aboard could simply vanish, right? That's the stuff of the Bermuda Triangle, a myth involving lost ships, planes and crews in the Atlantic Ocean that was debunked long ago.

The missing airliner, though, really is gone. Perhaps forever.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, disappeared less than an hour into its overnight journey. Something went seriously wrong aboard the plane, which veered wildly off course and flew in the wrong direction for hours before running out of fuel. Search boats have plied the suspected crash zone — a remote stretch of the southern Indian Ocean — for two years looking for wreckage.

And?

They've come up empty. A few bits of debris from the missing jet washed up on distant African shores. But the crash site hasn't been located and survey vessels, equipped with sonar, are running out of ocean to scour. Investigators mapped out 46,000 square miles of sea bottom to examine — an area about the size of Mississippi. There is less than 4,000 square miles to go. If the wreckage isn't found in the remaining area, the governments of Australia, Malaysia and China say they will suspend the search. "The likelihood of finding the aircraft is fading," they acknowledged after meeting July 22.

That fact is heartbreaking for relatives. It's troubling for all fliers. Without wreckage to study, there will be only theories, some more plausible than others, about why the plane went down.

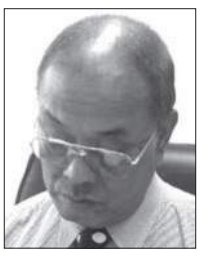
Everything seemed normal aboard Flight 370 until about 40 minutes into the journey. One of the pilots bade good night to air traffic controllers in Malaysia but never took the next required step: checking in with Ho Chi Minh City. Instead, the plane disappeared from air traffic control screens. Based on Malaysian military radar data and other evidence, the aircraft broke from its planned flight and crossed back through Malaysian territory. It flew south for about six hours over open ocean before falling from the sky.

The basis for calculating a potential crash zone was the discovery of a single point of continuing contact between the Boeing 777 and the outside world: a series of six automated hourly pings from a satellite communications system that were answered automatically by Flight 370. These "handshakes" confirmed the plane's satellite connection was operating. The seventh ping got a different response, indicating the jet's communications equipment was logging in again after a disruption. That, in all likelihood, signaled that the aircraft had run out of fuel, gone dark and then switched to emergency power.

See MYSTERY on Page 11

CUC: Citizens watching keenly

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

No one could blame "we the people's" frustration over ill disposition of matters that affect family pocketbooks after the marathon 20 years of zero increase in family income.

For instance, it is rumored that the CUC board is tiptoeing the Reverse Osmosis (RO) deal without exploring whether there's a factual need for it. Is the persistent agenda supported by a study confirming the need for expensive water while CUC seems to openly ignore that the real issue is the major or 60-70 pipe leaks all over the island?

So CUC wants expensive RO water to pump into the grounds? Gee! It just doesn't make sense, does it? Why would you saddle ratepayers cost of wasted water? I see, so it's okay for as long as the consultant gets his $160 million fees at our expense? It means we would be pay more than $3,000 per household per year for water that doesn't reach our homes, right?

A preliminary study would give the board an idea of charges, e.g., mean and average and final fee in order to recoup expenses some reasonable profit. As it is it's a big plunge that would only adversely affect the pocketbooks of families all over.

Wasn't there a lesson learned in similar proposal of recent past on the same issue? Does this require an entirely different learning curve? We're ready for a taxpayers' lawsuit to protect our very limited economic freedom!

Furthermore, it is also rumored that Best Sunshine would buy a generator for placement at the Power Plant at Lower Base with sole dedicated line to the new hotel. Woe! This raises more questions than there are answers.

Isn't this a form of privatization and would CUC allow other hotels the same deal? Who pays for fuel, maintenance, and liabilities? Why allow a deal that only presents more problems as the utility agency drowns in insolvency? That you lack savoir-faire—ability to do the right thing—by doing them right isn't an excuse to pile more fees upon struggling consumers.

Empathy: Occasionally, I'd retreat to the silent corner of my mind to listen empathetically to the voice of hard hit villagers struggling daily to make ends meet.

With stagnant salaries—zero increase—over the last 20 years under toxic republican charge imagine what families had to put up with throughout the period.

To bridge actual villagers' experience with hardship versus a new shopping list of more empty promises would be a woefully hard sale. It's my wallet against your big mouth! Against the backdrop of staggering deficit and inability to pay obligations like utility bills, is there any hope ahead?

You can say anything you wish in hopeful public relations stunt. But the fact remains that a woefully depressed economy hasn't lifted boats in households throughout villages. So where did you park the economic improvement? Family pocketbooks are still woefully empty? Isn't the economy about improvements in the ability of families to make ends meet beyond the borders of abject poverty?"

The mountain of obligations of the local government (deficits) forces it to slide conveniently into what's known as "deficit spending". It means spending public funds in advance of actual revenue collection. It's a dangerous practice eggheads on the hill have yet to come to terms with. It doesn't even grant it room to maneuver salary increase of any sort. The cumulative debts owed CUC, CDA, other vendors and the old retirement program is a tale of a financially troubled government.

Hellish hole: At another level, I talked to friends in all three islands. If life is hell on Saipan imagine living on Tinian and Rota where basic goods are far more expensive where, again, joblessness or salary stagnancy is a daily challenge for our brothers and sisters. The MV *Luta* isn't helping any in the reduction of cost for basic needs. Perhaps Biktot Hokog has another lame excuse for the hard familial miseries at home. Explanation lai?

Elitist culture: Opportunities for meaningful employment are as scarce as a good local mango. And not with politicians taking the destructive role of fruit flies. This is because the elected officials have come to enjoy the "elitist culture" waltzing with rich friends instantly ignoring "we the people" who placed them in office.

I may be redundant on this issue. But it's the truth and must constantly be flagged to remind voters that their forced conditions in poverty and hardship need not be prolonged any longer. Yes, it's time to change the confused captain and crew!

Clarity: When flies scatter around a trash can it shows some toxic pollutant stuffed in it, decomposing. This is the case in the recent announcement by Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig replacing Vivian Hokog as director of finance.

It is rumored that it involved misappropriation of public funds by the former director. If such is the case, why is she under "ad-

See CUC on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Getting legalization right 'the first time'

Given the people of the CNMI have been waiting over a year since the Senate hearings ended on the legalization issue. We are now in the 11th hour in the time remaining to get legislation on the ballot for the people and it is imperative that the Senate will get it right the first time the bill is voted on to prevent it from becoming a political football with no score for the people. I have no doubt that every senator truly cares about the CNMI and want what is best for the CNMI and the only challenge is making sure the people get the best legislation possible before sending it to the House of Representatives and the governor to meet the "time sensitive" date for the legislation to be on the ballot this November.

After working on this issue publicly and behind the scenes for years, the anxiety of waiting and wondering if they are going to get it right and in time are the very motivating forces for this letter to readers and to the Senate. I do want to make it very, very clear, I am not complaining about the Senate but humbly and respectfully pleading with them to conduct due-diligence in assessing what is truly best for the CNMI based on the facts, the best policies and practices, and proven research along with expediting their decision on the legislation to legalize marijuana. Most people who understand the dynamics of timing in correlation too business and industrial development is everything! The CNMI has only one shot at being first in our region in the Pacific to fully capture the virgin medical and recreational cannabis tourism market worth hundreds of millions to the winner in our region with virtually nothing left in tourism dollars for second and third place. This fact alone should be the primary factor for making sure the right legislation makes it to the ballot in time! Guam and Hawaii are both vying for our region's cannabis tourism market so do we come in first or dead last as most of us with common sense already know the wisdom of the "early bird getting all the worms".

I'm sure there are many in the community who share the concerns I'm raising because we have all been teased before by our politics and there is also a genuine desire that the people get a good or even great legislation and not just anything. There is a tremendous desire within the community to legalize marijuana but as an activist on this issue I'm not alone in wanting to make sure the people are not just handed a piece of legislation that is faulty. It should be noted by the Senate that while Colorado has proven to have the best marijuana laws in the nation, even Colorado has been forced to change their marijuana laws 12 times since they were first adopted. Washington even closed down all their medical dispensaries and turned the medical business over to recreational dispensaries for good reason and Oregon and Washington still have a lot of underground sales which is why I'm hoping our Senate has learned from the mistakes of these states as those who fail to learn from the lessons of history are doomed to repeat the same mistake.

Good luck and God speed senators as the people are depending upon you to deliver exemplary legislation and thanks for any consideration given to this humble and respectful request on behalf of the people who support legalization.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

So-called CNMI litters (leaders)

This is an open letter to our so-called CNMI litters (leaders). Ask me why I would call them these...Well looking back at my home island of Saipan it kind of baffles me, to say the least, that every now and then our indigenous brothers and sisters are always in the news for committing crimes that in the first place should have never occur.

The saddest part is how our elected officials have done not much to curb this trend. To me all they have been doing is keep compounding serious issue to a point where it cannot be solved. I mean come on...really...a bigger gambling concession will help our ailing economy and community.

Where is our vision of reviving the tourism industry if we have drug lords sitting at the gambling tables betting away whilst they rake in the dirty money on the other hand from their illegal drugs that will eventually be pushed by our indigenous brothers and sisters.

And I believe and maybe some will agree with me that more and more unspeakable crimes will entail. Take for instance the poker arcades. We all have seen what it could do to an individual let alone individuals. One of the ill effects of poker playing is addiction and to me how addictions start is by constantly feeding that addiction. Like for example smoking cigarette same concept it is just that smoking will not lead you to commit a serious crime like child endangerment or participating in illegal drug activities. So I ask our CNMI litters when can we actually learn something from what has happened in our past to shape a better future for us all? I think you all so called leaders should get a Webster's dictionary and look up the definition of what a true leader should be.

On another note and speaking about learning something from our past to shape a brighter future is the eruption of Anatahan Volcano. Another comparable event is that of Pagan Volcano erupting in the mid part of 1981 as we all can recollect. We all or maybe some know that due to that eruption, Pagan was to remain uninhabited for roughly more or less 30 years. I mean who could live among volcanic ashes and poisonous gas? Not me and certainly not my fellow indigenous brothers and sisters who called it home. Anatahan Volcano erupted in 2003 and upon learning of that event, it devastated me personally as I have come to call it my home too along with the few that inhabit it. And for me to write this now has not made me change my love for Anatahan.

I was one of the few who got the chance to witness first hand the devastation brought on by the volcano. Seeing and walking on the ash that now covers the once familiar locations brought me heartache and sparked some vivid memories I and a few had on the island. But what could I have done? Nothing then but now I have a bit of a suggestion or let's call it an idea, for our so-called CNMI litters. Why not lease it to the military? It is uninhabited, inaccessible, and certainly uninhabitable. This suggestion might infuriate the few but it might help speed up Mother Nature's way of making the land accessible in the future.

Say we do lease it out to the U.S. military and at a cost of $250 billion and suppose they agree, whose not to agree to a bigger target? They come in do all sorts of military stuff like bombing, more bombing, and then more bombing—which I think is what they are really good at. Look at FDM and at how much they embrace their Second Amendment rights, most would agree. And after the bombing, have them clean it u (Remember after the war—proof is all around us). Now before we get too far, let's come up with a few terms or better yet conditions that we will include in the lease. First of I think the length of the lease should be for a minimum of 25 and a max of 30 years. And if you all think $250 billion is too much, let's break it down in an payment installments basis. This way it will not be a burden to the U.S. and it will also teach us how to manage ourselves financially. Another condition is the control of which area will be most likely bombed so future developments can occur. Now you might be thinking—how about if they miss their target, right? Well let's put another condition that missed target equals deduction in the length of the lease. It might seem like a childish thing to do but hey wake up so-called CNMI litters. At first it might seem like an idiotic idea but if we all think it thoroughly the outcome will be beneficial to all, and if I have to outline every detail then I might as well become a leader myself.

On a very special note the general election is coming up. I bet all these so-called litters will be coming out of hibernation. They will be actively be on the front pages replacing street lights so when your cruising down Beach Road at night their signboards are lit properly for us to read and see. Do not forget those pothole repairs on the road because they would not want you to drive on a bumpy road and miss out on reading every lies on their signboards. And lastly, the house-to-house campaigning. Make sure you have your family tree documents handy because they might say we are related. But after the election and you call honorable Uncle Juan or Aunty Maria at their office you might be told that they are really busy. But hey that is just from me and I hope we all can actually get along for a brighter future.

Luciano M. Rangamar
Eatonville, Washington

MYSTERY

From Page 10

Amazing the different ways machines keep tabs on us all. The pings contained no location data, but experts were able to identify a presumed crash zone within a 400-mile arc off the west coast of Australia based on complex measurements of the distances traveled by the pings.

Yet all this amazing technology hasn't found the jet.

What happened aboard Flight 370? Perhaps a fire or other catastrophe was too much for the crew and passengers to manage, leaving the plane to fly on autopilot. Some see a terrorist plot or hijacking. There are theories about the captain's intentions, based on news reports that someone used his home flight simulator to plot a course to the Indian Ocean. But the Joint Agency Coordination Center — the Australian agency in charge of the search — seems nonplussed, declaring a few days ago that "the simulator information shows only the possibility of planning. It does not reveal what happened."

One point of speculation is whether searchers are looking in the wrong place. The potential crash zone was identified partly based on the assumption that the plane fell from the sky. But if someone was at the controls of Flight 370 and glided it to a water landing, the wreckage could be well off the search grid. … And with that scenario, we enter the uncharted territory of conspiracy theorists.

What we can say with certainty: The tragic disappearance of Flight 370, with all its passengers and crew, remains a tantalizing, frustrating mystery. The plane is out there somewhere. May the wreckage one day be found, and the mystery solved.

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CUC

From Page 10

ministrative leave?" Wasn't she a civil service employee? Where did the mayor scrounge the authority to grant administrative leave? Did the mayor effect an internal investigation on the former director? If not, do I take it that it's an attempt to roll the issue under the carpet? I openly request OPA and the AG to jointly probe this matter ASAP.

As a taxpayer, I insist to know how much money was misappropriated and whether there's a plan of action by the mayor's office to retrieve it via the legal system? If not, I could easily move in to ensure once more that hard-earned taxpayers' contributions are legally disposed. Interesting to probe too if there were external recipients of the alleged misappropriated funds. Mr. Mayor, this taxpayer and others insist for an answer forthwith. Si Yuus Maase`!

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲89° ▼80°

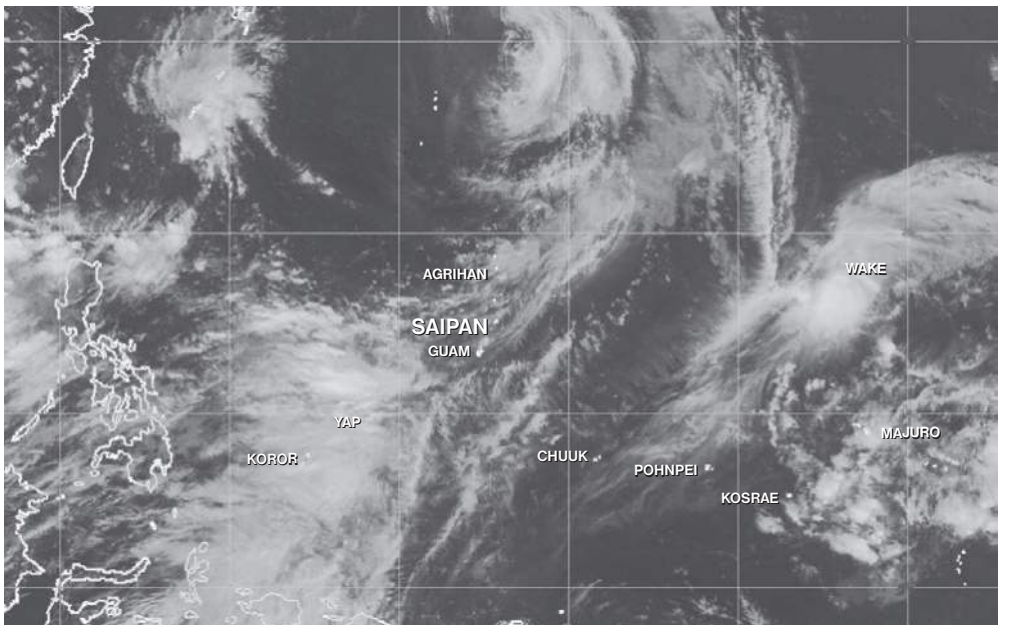
TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲89° ▼80°

WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼79°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼79°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:08 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

PGUA Doppler weather radar shows isolated monsoon showers moving through the Marianas waters from south-southwest to north-northeast. The VAD wind profile reveals southwest winds 15 to 25 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air. Above this the winds turn to predominantly a south direction. The weather balloon from last night indicates the winds shift to an easterly direction above 38 thousand feet. A weak circulation currently west of Wake Island is forecast to begin developing, however it should pass well northeast of the Marianas. A second circulation is expected to develop west of the Marianas, meaning it will tend to move away from the Marianas as soon as it forms. Together these circulations will act to maintain the southwest monsoon flow regime currently in place over the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Partly sunny	82 / 92 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	82 / 87 °F
Yap	Cloudy	80 / 90 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Morning clouds	81 / 86 °F
Majuro	Morning clouds	82 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Scattered showers	44 / 52 °F
Beijing	Mostly sunny	68 / 87 °F
Hong Kong	Morning clouds	83 / 93 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	59 / 68 °F
London	Sunny	60 / 73 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	63 / 80 °F
Manila	Strong thunderstorms	79 / 84 °F
Melbourne	Broken clouds	43 / 55 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	81 / 87 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	72 / 86 °F
Osaka	Sunny	76 / 95 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	61 / 73 °F
Pusan	Afternoon clouds	79 / 93 °F
Rome	Sunny	67 / 91 °F
Salem	Light showers	55 / 73 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	55 / 71 °F
Seoul	Afternoon clouds	76 / 93 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	75 / 90 °F
Washington, DC	Showers	66 / 84 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
5:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.68 Feet
10:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.57 Feet
5:24 PM	LOW TIDE	0.48 Feet
11:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	10:16 AM	10:27 PM
Tuesday	11:03 AM	11:06 PM
Wednesday	11:51 AM	11:46 PM
Thursday	12:39 AM	-
Friday	-	12:28 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

CONTINUOUS & UNTIL FILLED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LOCATION	POSITION/TITLE	TOTAL POSITION	JVA NO.	CLOSING DATE
San Vicente Elem. School, William S. Reyes Elem. School	Teacher Aide (Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies) (Amendment V) (ReAnnouncement V)	1	PSS 2015-181	May 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (ReAnnouncement I) Content Area: Special Education	1	PSS 2015-276	Oct. 06, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Speech Language Pathologist (ReAnnouncement V)	1	PSS 2014-138	Oct. 09, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Speech Language Pathologist	1	PSS 2015-294	Oct. 20, 2015 – Until Filled
Early Intervention Program	Speech Language Pathologist	1	PSS 2015-295	Oct. 20, 2015 – Until Filled
Office of Student Support Services	Classroom Teacher (ELL/Literacy) Amendment/ ReAnnouncement	1	PSS 2015-257	Nov. 19, 2015 – Until Filled
JROTC Program – Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr/Sr High School	Army Instructor (ReAnnouncement II)	1	PSS 2015-277	Nov. 19, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2015-332	Dec. 15, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Instructor – Sign Language Interpreting	2	PSS 2016-003	Jan.26, 2016 – Until Filled
JROTC Program	JROTC Army Instructor	1	PSS 2016-004	Feb. 08, 2016 – Until Filled
JROTC Program	Senior Army Instructor	1	PSS 2016-007	Feb. 08, - Until Filled
JROTC Program	Director of Army Instruction	1	PSS 2016-005	Feb. 08, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Special Education School Counselor – Behavioral Specialist (Amendment)	1	PSS 2016-015	March 8, 2016 – Until Filled
Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Program, San Vicente Elem. School	Instructor I (CCLHS) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-023	May 2, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	School Vice Principal I-II	1	PSS 2016-020	April 18, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Supply Technician I (Re-Announcement/Amendment)	1	PSS 2015-215	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start Family Partnership (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-311	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start Secretary I (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-212	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Practice Based Coach (Re-Announcement VI)	1	PSS 2014-172	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	Instructor I-III (Nursing Assistantship – CTE)	1	PSS 2016-034	April 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Part-Time Food Monitor (3 positions) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2015-308	May 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	School Counselor (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2015-280	May 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Federal Programs Office	Social Media Intern	1	PSS 2016-036	May 2, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Part-Time Food Monitor (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-317	May 18, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Occupational Therapist III-IV (Re-Announcement XXXVII)	1	PSS 2012-074	May 18, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	2	PSS 2016-052	May 23, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-053	May 23, 2016 – Until Filled
Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Program, Tanapag Middle School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-056	May 23, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-057	May 23, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Nutrition Assistant Monitor (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-310	May 26, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan, Tinian, Rota	Classroom Teachers (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-064	June 9, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Substitute Teacher Aide (20 Positions)	20	PSS 2016-062	June 16, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Teacher Aide (10 Positions)	10	PSS 2016-063	June 16, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	Building Maintenance Worker (Re-Announcement IV)	1	PSS 2015-149	June 16, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-070	July 1, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Jr.Sr. High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-074	July 1, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-075	July 1, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-077	July 1, 2016 – Until Filled
William S. Reyes Elem. School	School Counselor (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-080	July 1, 2016 – Until Filled
William S. Reyes Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-079	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-083	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Koblerville Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-084	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Alternative Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-086	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-088	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (3 Positions)	3	PSS 2016-089	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher (Career Technical Education) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-090	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (Class Size Reduction)	1	PSS 2016-092	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Procurement & Supply	Procurement and Supply Specialist II (Amendment) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-017	July 22 – Aug. 05, 2016
Cha Cha OceanView Middle School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-093	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Cha Cha Ocean View Middle School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-094	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-095	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-096	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Tanapag Middle School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-097	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School	School Counselor (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-098	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-099	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	School Counselor (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-100	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-101	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-102	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-103	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Elementary School	School Counselor (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-104	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-105	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-106	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-107	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Alternative Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (4 Positions)	4	PSS 2016-108	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Accountability, Research and Evaluation	Education Specialist III-V (Accountability Program Coordinator)	1	PSS 2016-109	July 22 – Aug. 05, 2016
Hopwood Jr. High School	Custodial Worker I	1	PSS 2016-068	July 29 – Aug. 12, 2016
Kagman High School	School Counselor (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-110	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
William S. Reyes Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-111	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Oleai Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-113	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
San Vicente Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-114	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Koblerville Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-115	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
JROTC Program	Senior Army Instructor	1	PSS 2016-118	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Hopwood Jr. High School	School Counselor (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-119	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Head Start Program, Tinian	Family Partnership Advocate (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2015-336	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE FIRST FLOOR, CNMI PSS CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING, BWUGHOS STREET, SUSUPE. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, CNMI PSS CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051 / FAX # (670) 664-3707. FREE COPY.

BSI-CSR celebrates community's resilience

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team stands alongside Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog at the CSR booth at last Saturday's SOU'Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility team collaborated with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts in celebrating the community's resilience and continued recovery following the destruction of Typhoon Soudelor

The BSI-CSR team's booth at last Saturday's SOU'Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza offered young chestnut trees, foxtail trees, and fruit trees to the families in attendance—a symbolic and noble gesture to support the community's work to rebuild and overcome the challenges resulting from the destruction caused by the strongest typhoon that hit Saipan n recent memory.

Many trees were destroyed as a result of Typhoon Soudelor, which gave the BSI-CSR team the motivation to provide such gesture. The team also assisted in setting up the venue and provided water, ice, and fruits for event organizers and attendees.

BSI played a major role in the community's recovery immediately after Typhoon Soudelor through collaboration with CARE, the Executive branch, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and numerous nongovernment organizations.

BSI was at the forefront in the immediate aftermath of the typhoon, contributing equipment, manpower, and financial aid totaling to about $500,000 to help the government and the community recover. BSI also provided, among others, over 250 gallons of drinking water and over hundreds of bottled drinking water to those that sought refuge at temporary/emergency shelters.

In a recent Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting, CARE president Alex Sablan said that "the CSR team of Best Sunshine provided excellent support in conjunction with the Mayor of Saipan and Department of Public Works in clearing much of the debris from each village every week since the typhoon. This debris cleaning allowed American Red Cross Disaster Case Management personnel to enter properties and assess the damage to many homes." (***PR***)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The BSI-CSR staff assisting members of the public.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Press secretary Ivan Blanco poses with some of the CSR staff at the BSI booth.

The BSI-CSR team assists with the staging of SOU'Fest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

3 women enroll at NMTI's Construction Trades Program

As the CW worker situation remains a heated topic in the CNMI, there are those who choose to be a part of the solution and avail themselves to current programs focused on workforce development.

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute is seeing a growing interest on the part of residents seeking job skills training. Three such individuals trying to enhance their skills include Julie Dionisio, Keriann Callaghan, and Dionisia Taitano. The three women are currently enrolled in the Construction Trades Program at the Lower Base Institute. The ladies vary in backgrounds as Callaghan, for example, is still a high school student at Saipan International School and will be going back soon to further her academic studies, while Taitano is a mother of three on the lookout for opportunities for personal growth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julie Dionisio, Keriann Callaghan, and Dionisia Taitano are currently enrolled in the Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Construction Trades Program.

The three ladies chose NMTI as its Construction Trades program is backed by the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER). When asked why construction trades? Dionisio responded by saying, "Having national credentials is what it's all about. If I don't finish all my courses here, I can take the rest anywhere in the nation where NCCER courses are being taught. That means all the time spent here is not lost and carries me towards my overall career goals."

Taitano, on the other hand, wants to use the skills she learns to eventually build her own house and not be dependent on others to perform such tasks. Being the newest of the batch, she enjoys the challenge ahead. Callaghan plans to come back to NMTI and finish once her senior year is completed at Saipan International School. She doesn't put aside the thought of one day coming back and serving as an instructor at NMTI.

Agnes McPhetres, NMTI chief executive officer commented that,"The number of women entering the field of construction is growing nationwide. Running an NCCER-backed curriculum is the key. This is the same curriculum used by the Army Corps. of Engineers and remains the industry standard. We believe in our product and ask prospective trainees to do their homework. Check it out themselves and see where NCCER certification can take them." ***(PR)***

Tanapag's young eco-warriors step up

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young eco-warriors from the Tanapag Middle School stepped up and donated $1,000 to the CNMI Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund. The students are members of the TMS Micronesia Challenge Club that was formed in October last year.

Maria Agustin, Nikolas Iguel, Victor Iguel, Hana Mafnas, Jerylyn Olupomar, Hannah Palacios, Jenelyn Palad, Ezra Rabauliman, Robin Sablan, and Dione Torres were the members present in last Thursday's check presentation. Acelia Dela Cruz is TMS' Micronesia Challenge Club adviser.

TMS Parent-Teacher-Student president Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong said the money was taken from the MCC's funds. "I'm proud of our students for doing this. It was them who decided to donate the money from their club funds to show their support for the Micronesian Challenge."

The Micronesia Challenge is a collaborative effort agreed on among the chief executives of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to preserve the natural resources that is critical to the traditions, cultures, and livelihoods within the region.

MCC members are mostly from the villages of Tanapag, San Roque, and As Matuis. The students held various activities to help raise awareness and encourage their fellow students in taking care of the environment.

The club has conducted beach cleanups from Tanapag to Pau Pau Beach and made a commitment in keeping the said areas clean through the Adopt-A-Beach program by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Some of their members also attended the Schools for Environmental Conservation workshop by the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance where they helped in producing a conservation action plan of increasing the number of mangrove trees in two streams in Tanapag.

Providing trashcans for TMS, supporting BECQ's rain garden installation in the campus, and having a booth in this year's Marianas Tourism Educational Council Summit where they shared information about the Micronesia Challenge and their conservation efforts to their peers are the other activities done by the MCC.

JON PEREZ
Micronesian Challenge Club member Dione Torres signs the symbolic check while, from left, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, CNMI-based Micronesia Conservation Trust board member Diego Benavente, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and Tanapag Middle School Parent-Teacher-Student Association president Kodep Ogumoro Uludong look on in last Thursday's presentation at the Governor's Office conference room.

Ogumoro-Uludong and club adviser Acelia Dela Cruz both said that they are proud of their students and what they have achieved at their young age.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), former lieutenant governor and Micronesia Conservation Trust board member Diego Benavente, Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee and CNMI point of contact Fran Castro, and MCT executive director Willy Kostka received the check donation.

Torres thanked the students for all the efforts they made about taking care of the environment. "Your generation and the next one will enjoy the benefits of your efforts in conservation. Thank you for stepping up."

Demapan added that is why he is pushing for House Bill 19-105 or the Marine Resources Investment Act to become a law. "The House had already passed the bill and is currently at the Senate for discussion. The bill, if it becomes a law, will make sure marine resources will be properly managed and protected. We can be a model territory in the Pacific."

NMC offices closed tomorrow

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development and operational planning activities on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016 (on campus). All NMC offices will be closed on this day to ensure maximum employee participation.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused. For any campus emergency, please contact NMC Security at 234-5498 ext. 1911. For more information about upcoming events, visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REVISED
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-016

TYPHOON SOUDELOR PERMANENT RESTORATION PROJECT
CUC POWER PLANTS 1, 2, AND 4
SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for the Typhoon Soudelor Permanent Restoration Project for CUC Power Plant Nos. 1 and 2, located at Lower Base and No. 4, located at Puerto Rico, Saipan, CNMI.

The Contractor shall provide and pay for all labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature, and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A **mandatory pre-proposal conference** will be conducted at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **August 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., ChST.** Immediately after the conference, Site Visits to Power Plant facilities will be arranged. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID.

One (1) original and Five (6) hard copies and 1 Compact Disc (CD) of the entire submission in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC RFP-16-016 Typhoon Soudelor Permanent Restoration Project, CUC Power Plants 1, 2, and 4*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 31, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The awarded Proposer will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 19, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-017

REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF THE ADA GYMNASIUM

Governor Ralph DLg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Repair and Renovation of the ADA Gymnasium,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 25, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certiication (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/ Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 17, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division.** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-16-IFB-017".** For bidders within the CNMI, and original and two sopies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 07, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no lated than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 07, 2016,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pitcom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 07, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 16, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on September 07, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the SNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on the other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US $100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Norther Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

MVA appoints 227 CNMI tourism ambassadors in Japan

The Marianas Visitors Authority has appointed 227 travel agency staff in Japan as Northern Mariana Islands Tourism Ambassadors, following a series of FAM tours to the islands this year jointly sponsored by the MVA, Delta Air Lines, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion presented the certifications at a ceremony on July 27, 2016, in Tokyo.

"The historic foundation of the NMI tourism industry is based on Japanese travelers, and a continued good partnership with travel agencies in Japan is necessary for the industry to thrive in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Concepcion.

The appointment ceremony was also joined by Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh.

Tomo Shimada, general manager of the MVA's Japan office also announced the launch of a 40-day, TV ad campaign to launch after the Obon summer holiday period in the Kanto area. The ad will also be on big screens in Shibuya, Tokyo.

The FAM tours were initiated by Masaru Morimoto, Managing Director Japan of Delta Air Lines, who was quoted by *Travel Vision* magazine as saying, "You can enjoy beautiful beaches in both summer and winter in Saipan, which is only three and a half hour from Tokyo by a direct flight."

Morimoto also announced the plan to strengthen the sales of Delta's Narita-Saipan route, the only regular direct flight between Saipan and Japan. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority appointed 227 Northern Mariana Islands Tourism Ambassadors from various travel agencies in Japan on July 27, 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, left, and Saipan-da, right, congratulate one of the 227 Northern Mariana Islands Tourism Ambassadors from various travel agencies appointed in Japan on July 27, 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two hundred twenty-seven Northern Mariana Islands Tourism Ambassadors from various travel agencies were appointed by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Japan on July 27, 2016. The appointment comes following a series of FAM tours for travel agency planners and agents this year, sponsored by the MVA, Delta Air Lines, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Japan Saipan Travel Association.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion appoints 227 Northern Mariana Islands Tourism Ambassadors from various travel agencies in Japan on July 27, 2016.

IP&E Palau donates $3K to PCC Endowment Fund

IP&E Palau Inc. donated $3,000 in support of the Palau Community College last July 13Endowment Fund.

The donation was presented by IP&E Area manager (also the Airai State Delegate in the Ninth Olbiil Era Kelulau) Frank Kyota. It was received on behalf of the college by PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, PCC vice president of Administration & Finance Jay Olegeriil, PCC director of Development Tchuzie Tadao, PCC dean of Students Sherman Daniel, PCC dean of Continuing Education William O. Wally, and PCC dean of Academic Affairs Robert Ramarui.

IP&E Palau has been a dedicated supporter of the PCC Endowment Fund. Because of the support from businesses such as IP&E Palau Inc., the PCC Endowment Fund has continued to grow since its inception. Due to the generous support of the community, Palau Community College was able to raise over $58,000 during its annual Thanksgiving Endowment Fundraising Event last year.

The PCC Endowment Fund is an important component of the community college that supports Athe future stability and programs of Palau's only institution of higher learning. Established in 1998, the PCC Endowment Fund ensures that Palau Community College continues to provide post-secondary education and career & technical training that meets the needs of Palau, Micronesia, and the Pacific region.

If you would like to donate to the PCC Endowment Fund or support the upcoming PCC Thanksgiving Endowment Fundraising Event, please contact the Development Office of Palau Community College at 488-2470/2471 extensions 251, 252, or 253. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Palau Community College dean of Academic Affairs Robert Ramarui, PCC director of Development Tchuzie Tadao, PCC dean of Continuing Education Willy Wally, PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, IP&E Palau Inc. area manager/Airai State Delegate Frank Kyota, PCC dean of Students Sherman Daniel, and PCC vice president of Administration & Finance Jay Olegeriil.

Business

Steady hiring is now benefiting a broader group of Americans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Years of steady job gains have finally begun to benefit a wider range of Americans, including those with less education and in lower-paying jobs.

A second straight month of robust hiring—255,000 jobs added in July—pointed to employer confidence that suggested that the economy is powering through a slump that struck early this year. The unemployment rate remained a low 4.9 percent, the Labor Department said Friday.

Hiring has been solid for six years, but for most of that time there were caveats: Average hourly pay was stagnant. And millions were no longer either working or looking for work, leaving a smaller proportion of adults in the labor force.

Evidence is emerging that those long-running weak spots are finally improving. Many businesses are offering higher pay to attract workers as competition to fill jobs heats up. Average pay is up 2.6 percent from a year ago—matching the best 12-month gain since the Great Recession ended in 2009 and comfortably above inflation of just 1 percent.

AP

In this Tuesday, July 19, 2016, photo, Reina Borges, left, stands in line to apply for a job with Aldi at a job fair in Miami Lakes, Fla.

The resilient job market is encouraging more Americans to begin looking for a job—a key trend that helps offset a drag from the growing retirements of aging baby boomers.

Taken together, the two trends suggest that the economic recovery, now seven years old, is finally benefiting a broad spectrum of the population.

Economists at Goldman Sachs have found that pay for workers earning less than $12.50 an hour has risen 4 percent in the past year, more than for any other income group. Those earning from $12.50 to $20 an hour have received the next-biggest increase, at just above 3 percent. Higher minimum wages may be bumping up pay for workers further above the federal minimum of $7.25.

"Wage growth figures indicate that the tide is turning," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office and president of the conservative American Action Forum.

ConAgra salmonella case nearing end a decade after outbreak

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Nearly a decade after hundreds of Americans got sick after eating Peter Pan peanut butter tainted with salmonella, ConAgra Foods appears close to settling a federal criminal case stemming from the outbreak.

After years of investigation and legal negotiations, federal prosecutors announced last year that Chicago-based ConAgra had agreed to pay $11.2 million—a sum that includes the highest fine ever in a U.S. food safety case—and plead guilty to a single misdemeanor charge of shipping adulterated food. Investigators linked peanut butter produced in Sylvester, Georgia, to 626 people sickened by salmonella before a February 2007 recall removed Peter Pan from store shelves for months.

The charge and accompanying plea deal were revealed May 20, 2015. More than 14 months later, a federal judge has yet to hold a formal plea hearing or approve the settlement.

That could soon change. U.S. District Judge W. Louis Sands has ordered a teleconference with ConAgra attorneys and prosecutors on Thursday to schedule a plea date. Prosecutors told the judge in a legal filing July 29 both sides are ready to proceed after a year spent reaching out to possible victims so they could file claims for financial restitution.

"These criminal cases resonate across the world in food safety and I'm certainly an advocate of continuing to do this," said Bill Marler, a Seattle-based attorney who specializes in food safety and represented 2,000 clients in civil suits against ConAgra after the Peter Pan outbreak. "But I think a little more prompt justice is called for. Something that goes on for a decade doesn't necessarily make the most sense."

Louisiana pols go to court blaming Big Oil for coastal ruin

ALLIANCE, La. (AP)—The oil industry has left a big footprint along the Gulf Coast, where a Delaware-sized stretch of Louisiana has disappeared.

But few politicians would blame Big Oil for ecosystem abuse in a state where the industry employs up to 300,000 people and injects $73 billion into the economy.

Until now.

Following the lead of Gov. John Bel Edwards, Louisiana political orthodoxy is being turned upside-down as prominent leaders of both parties join lawsuits seeking billions of dollars for environmental improvement projects.

Down in the pancake-flat bayou, it's not easy to see what made so much of the coast sink into the Gulf of Mexico.

Even when you climb onto the levee, buzzing with dragonflies, that keeps the old delta farming community of Alliance from being swallowed, all that's visible is marshland, stretching toward a green horizon.

But land's end is much closer now, and what remains has been disrupted. Access canals carved by the oil industry run straight as arrows, rusting signs warn of underwater pipelines and abandoned drilling platforms sink into the muck. As the Alliance refinery billows with fumes, the surrounding pastures are slowly sinking.

Louisiana remains the nation's second-largest crude oil producer and oil refiner after Texas, but the industry has been on the defensive since Edwards, a 49-year-old lawyer and Democrat, ended eight years of Republican leadership last November.

Nation

Poll: Young adults support new efforts to curb gun violence

CHICAGO (AP)—LaShun Roy supports a ban on semi-automatic weapons and more comprehensive background checks. But the 21-year-old gun owner from rural Texas doesn't consider gun-control measures a top priority in this year's elections.«

For Keionna Cottrell, a 24-year-old who lives on Chicago's South Side and whose brother was shot and killed this year in another Illinois city, few things are more important than limiting access to guns.

"So many people are dying here because there is no control of the weapons out on our streets," said Cottrell. "Young men ... have real military guns and they're not scared to use them."

Although their lives and experiences differ, the young women's shared support for additional policies to curb gun violence reflect the feelings of many Americans between the ages of 18 and 30, regardless of their backgrounds, according to a new GenForward poll.

About 9 in 10 young adults say they support criminal background checks for all gun sales, a level of support that remains consistent across racial and ethnic groups. Stiffer penalties for violating existing gun laws are supported by 9 in 10 young adults, including about 9 in 10 whites, Asian-Americans and Latinos, as well as 8 in 10 African-Americans.

Fifty-seven percent of young Americans support a ban on semi-automatic weapons, with support especially high—74 percent—among Asian-Americans.

GenForward is a survey by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The first-of-its-kind poll pays special attention to the voices of young adults of color, highlighting how race and ethnicity shape the opinions of a new generation.

Roy, a full-time college student who learned to handle assault rifles while serving in the National Guard, said it's possible to protect the rights of gun owners and implement safeguards. That puts her among the 54 percent of young adults—including 61 percent of Asian-Americans, 57 percent of African-Americans and 52 percent of Latinos and whites—who say laws limiting gun ownership do not infringe on the public's right to bear arms.

Florida officials go into damage-control mode over Zika

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Thank goodness it's the slow season in Florida.

At least that's what officials and representatives of the state's multibillion-dollar tourism industry are thinking in the wake of the news that 16 people have been infected with Zika in a small, trendy neighborhood in Miami.

The outbreak has sent another chill through the Sunshine State's all-important tourism industry just weeks after the Orlando nightclub massacre and the killing of a 2-year-old boy by an alligator at nearby Walt Disney World.

Florida officials have gone into damage-control mode, with Gov. Rick Scott insisting, "We have a safe state!" during a tour of the Zika hot zone in Miami's Wynwood district.

Tourism is Florida's biggest industry. Visitors spent some $89 billion here last year. And Disney is America's No. 1 tourist attraction.

Outside of a few business owners in the affected square-mile neighborhood, however, Zika appears to have done little damage to tourism so far.

"We have not had anyone cancel a trip to Florida because of Zika," said Jenny Cagle, vice president of Elm Grove Travel in Wisconsin. "It's definitely a conversation. People are talking about it."

Demetra Prattas, vice president of Turon Travel, a New York-based company that books art tours and trips, including the annual Art Basel festival that includes events in Wynwood, said: "I don't think it's a factor in deciding where to go. We've had no cancellations."

The governor has been on something of a statewide Zika tour, meeting with county health officials and business owners in Miami and along the Interstate 4 corridor that runs through Orlando. He said tourists should use caution and not worry about mosquitoes, adding that Florida knows how to prepare for crises because of its hurricanes.

Charting a road to 270, Clinton sets out most efficient path

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Hillary Clinton doesn't appear all that interested in making scenic stops on her state-to-state quest to become president. The Democratic nominee is instead programming her GPS to take her on the quickest route to collect the 270 Electoral College votes she needs to win the White House.

With three months until Election Day, Clinton's campaign is focused on capturing the battleground states that have decided the most recent presidential elections, not so much on expanding the map.

Clinton's team doesn't rule out an effort at Arizona, a state with a booming population of Latino voters that polls find are loath to support Trump. And Georgia, a bastion of the Deep South, echoes recent population trends in other Southeastern states where Clinton is competing aggressively.

But neither is among the 11 battleground states that Clinton's television advertising plans and her travel schedule point to as her focus. Those states are the perennial top-tier targets Florida and Ohio, plus Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. President Barack Obama carried them all in 2008, and missed out on only North Carolina during his 2012 re-election campaign.

"The last two elections have given Democrats an electoral path for victory," said Clinton campaign adviser John Anzalone. "And our strategy is to efficiently use our resources to lock down the support we need to reach 270 electoral votes."

After a bump in support for Clinton in national polls that followed the Democratic convention and tracked Trump's recent gaffes, the number of states where Clinton will invest her time and money may get smaller than 11.

Asia

PH leader links 150 judges and politicians to drugs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte publicly linked more than 150 judges, mayors, lawmakers, police and military personnel to illegal drugs Sunday, ordering them to surrender for investigation as he ratcheted up his bloody war against what he calls a "pandemic."

AP

In this Friday, July 1, 2016, file photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte addresses the troops during a military ceremony in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines.

Duterte promptly relieved members of the military and police he named from their current posts and ordered government security personnel to be withdrawn from politicians he identified in a nationally televised speech. He also ordered gun licenses of those named revoked.

"All military and police who are attached to these people, I'm giving you 24 hours to report to your mother unit or I will whack you. I'll dismiss you from the service," Duterte said in the speech at a military camp in southern Davao city.

He said that the list of politicians, judges and law enforcers given to him by the military and police might or might not be true, but he had a duty to disclose to the public how the drugs problem had become so pervasive.

"There is no due process in my mouth," Duterte said. "You can't stop me and I'm not afraid even if you say that I can end up in jail."

The list of names, which Duterte said included some friends, has been validated by authorities but did not contain details of the officials' alleged involvement to the drug trade or offer any evidence. Some names were incomplete while others had no rank or government positions.

They included eight judges, five retired and current generals while the rest were mostly town mayors and police officers. One retired general, Vicente Loot, has been previously named in public by Duterte and has denied any wrongdoing.

Thais vote on new constitution that could dilute democracy

BANGKOK (AP)—Thais voted Sunday in a referendum on a new constitution that critics say is tailor-made for the military government to stay in control for several years and entrench a new, quasi-democratic system that gives vast powers to appointed officials.

The junta, which came to power in a May 2014 coup and ordered the constitution rewritten, says the new version will usher in a new era of clean politics and stable democracy in a country chronically short of both in recent years. Over the years, Thailand has sometimes slid into violent internal political conflict.

The government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a retired army general, used its sweeping powers to ban political rallies and independent campaigns against the draft constitution, and allowed virtually no debates on it. Opponents say this was done to ensure that people would have little knowledge about the constitution's provisions, even though officials say 1 million copies have been distributed in a nation of 64 million people.

More than 100 people who tried to campaign against the referendum on social media have been thrown in jail, and open criticism has been made punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

"If people cannot speak their minds freely or take part in political activities without fear, how can they meaningfully engage in this referendum," said Josef Benedict, Amnesty International's deputy director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

At a polling booth in Bangkok where Prayuth voted, officials displayed an empty ballot box to reporters and sealed it before letting the first voter—a young woman—enter the booth. She first registered at a desk and signed a paper before casting her ballot.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's air force flies combat patrol over disputed islands

BEIJING (AP)—China's air force said Saturday that it has conducted a combat air patrol over disputed areas of the South China Sea to improve its fighting ability. The announcement comes after Beijing said it wanted to tamp down tensions following its strong rejection of an international tribunal that ruled that its claim to virtually all of the South China Sea has no legal basis. China refused to take part in the case taken by the Philippines to the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration and continues to assert that islands in the South China Sea are its territory. The air force didn't say when the exercises took place. Last month, after the July 12 ruling, the air force said that it had conducted patrols over the South China Sea and would make it "a regular practice."

Authorities arrest blacklisted American in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani officials say a blacklisted American citizen has been arrested in the capital Islamabad. Interior Ministry spokesman Sarfaraz Hussain says Saturday that Federal Investigation Agency officials arrested Mathew Craig Barrett from an Islamabad guest house. He said Barrett was deported and blacklisted in 2011 after being found in the area of a sensitive installation. He did not elaborate. Hussain said Barrett obtained a visa from the Pakistani consulate in Houston and managed to clear the airport immigration counter. US embassy spokesman Christopher K Snipes said in a text message that the privacy act "prohibits us from releasing information about American citizens without their consent."

World

13 dead, 6 injured as fire hits bar in French city

PARIS (AP)—A fast-moving fire that appeared to be accidental swept through a birthday party in a basement bar in northwest France, killing at least 13 people and injuring six others, authorities said Saturday.

More than 80 firefighters battled the early Saturday blaze at the downtown Cuba Libre bar in the city of Rouen, Mayor Yvon Robert said, calling the fire "very brief."

The birthday party was "a moment of joy for those involved that ... ended tragically," Robert said.

Vice prosecutor Laurent Labadie told The Associated Press that the first testimonies from survivors and the early police investigation indicated the "fire was completely accidental."

"There was no explosion," Labadie told the AP. "Candles on a birthday cake started the fire after the person who carried it tripped on the stairs leading to the basement."

Labadie said it's still unclear how many people were partying at the Cuba Libre club, adding that most of the dead were between 18 and 25 years old.

In a statement released by the French presidency, Francois Hollande expressed his "solidarity" with the victims' families and vowed that the ongoing judicial investigation will shed light on the "the causes of this dramatic accident."

Labadie said sound-insulating material on the basement's walls quickly ignited and party guests had no time to escape from the basement.

At the scene of the fire, residents paid tribute to the victims by laying flowers. Images on French television from outside the bar showed a large ground-floor window broken open, burned red bar chairs and a tattered awning.

The fire—the deadliest in France since 2005—came as the country is on maximum terror alert after two deadly attacks last month and was also the second recent tragedy to hit Rouen, a city in Normandy. A priest was slain by two Islamic State extremists in his church outside Rouen on July 26 and his funeral was held Tuesday in Rouen Cathedral.

Turkey arrests dozens of special forces in post-coup purge

ISTANBUL (AP)—Dozens of special forces personnel were arrested in Turkey Saturday in the latest development in a sweeping crackdown following the failed coup in the country that killed over 270 people, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Nearly 90 staff members were arrested after being identified by a commission established by the Special Forces Command following the July 15 coup, the agency reported.

The crackdown targets suspected followers of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Ankara accuses of masterminding the coup attempt. Tens of thousands of employees in the military, police force, judiciary and throughout the public sector have been dismissed, detained or arrested.

Turkey has also been reforming its security apparatus in the aftermath of the failed coup, with the military being brought firmly under civilian authority in a series of governmental decrees following the declaration of a state of emergency.

Earlier on Saturday Prime Minister Binali Yildirim hosted a security summit of high-level government and military officials in Ankara. Those attending included the country's foreign, justice, interior and defense ministers, the chief of general staff and the heads of Turkey's national intelligence agency and the national police. No decisions were announced following the meeting.

As part of its anti-coup campaign, Ankara has been encouraging nightly anti-coup rallies throughout the country, with officials preparing for the grand finale to be held in Istanbul on Sunday.

The "Democracy and Martyrs' Rally" is meant to represent the unity of the country, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urging attendees to bring only the Turkish flag instead of party banners.

"There we will stand together as a single nation, a single flag, a single motherland, a single state, a single spirit," he said.

The event will be attended by the highest levels of Turkish leadership and two of Turkey's three opposition parties. The pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party, or HDP, was not invited.

Separatist Ukrainian leader wounded in Luhansk car bombing

MOSCOW (AP)—A top separatist leader in Ukraine's Luhansk region has been wounded in a car bombing, his colleagues said Saturday.

An explosive device went off early Saturday in Luhansk near the car of Igor Plotnitsky, leader of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic, the rebel-run Luhansk Information Center said on its website. The report quoted rebel official Sergei Kozlov as saying that Plotnitsky has been taken to hospital and is now in stable condition.

Russian state television on Saturday showed footage of a black SUV mangled by an explosion.

Fighting between Russia-backed rebels and government forces has been raging since April 2014, leaving more than 9,500 dead and displacing over a million. Luhansk was heavily shelled in the summer of 2014 but the front line has since moved dozens of kilometers (miles) away, and the rebels are in full control of the city and its suburbs.

Plotnitsky was one of the signatories of a peace accord in 2015 that helped to lower the intensity of fighting in eastern Ukraine. International observers, however, have reported that both sides have been using the heavy weapons they had promised to withdraw.

Local police chief Oleg Anashchenko was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying the bombing is being treated as an act of terror and that police forces have been put on alert.

Denis Pushilin, a top rebel official in the neighboring Donetsk region, warned on Saturday that the attempt on Plotnitsky could signal Kiev's intentions to renew the hostilities and spread panic in the self-proclaimed republic.

In Kiev, the Ukrainian presidential spokesman for the military operation in the east, Olexander Motuzyanyk, denied suggestions that the Ukrainian government could be behind the attack.

Health & Fitness

Pregnant women are fearful living in Miami's Zika hot zone

MIAMI (AP)—Jessica Ardente waited 36 years to have her first baby. Her parents will visit in two weeks to watch their grandson's ultrasound. There are cribs and car seats to shop for, a nursery to decorate, and bottles, diapers and clothes to buy.

And now, on top of everything else, there is Zika to worry about.

Ardente lives in the one-square-mile section of Miami that health officials are urging pregnant women to avoid because of the mosquito-borne illness, which can cause severe birth defects, including stunted heads.

"You can take every step you can trying to take care of yourself with your diet and exercise and going to your prenatal appointments, but now I have to worry about mosquitoes and going outside," a four-months-pregnant Ardente said, petting her dog as she sat on the couch in her one-bedroom apartment.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has warned expectant mothers to steer clear of the city's Wynwood neighborhood, where at least 15 people are believed to have been infected with the Zika virus through mosquito bites in the first such cases on record in the mainland U.S.

Avoiding the neighborhood of trendy shops, galleries and restaurants might be just an inconvenience for pregnant women who live outside Wynwood. But Ardente said that it's a near-impossible request for her, and that she's staying put despite offers from friends to crash at their places.

"What do you do when you live there? You can't stay out of that area," the single mother-to-be said. "It's scary, but I'm not going to not leave my house. I'm just trying to be careful."

She smiles while showing off red-and-blue baby onesies adorned with colorful giraffes—a gift from a friend. For now, other than her belly, it's the only evidence in the apartment that she is pregnant.

Her doctor has told her to consider hiring a dog walker, but she insists on sticking to her routine while taking precautions. She puts on bug spray and wears long pants and long sleeves every morning and evening, despite the sweltering summer heat, when she walks the dog.

It also means more doctor visits plus frequent blood and urine tests. And she's working out indoors now instead of at a studio that keeps its bay doors open.

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016 photo, Jessica Ardente poses for a photograph in her apartment in Miami.

U.S. health authorities have said they don't expect major outbreaks in this country like those seen in Latin America and the Caribbean. But concerns mounted after experts admitted Tuesday that despite aggressive spraying, they are having a difficult time eradicating the mosquitoes that spread the illness. The Aedes aegypti mosquito can breed in just a bottle cap of standing water.

Hospitals and clinics in the area have been swamped with calls and visits.

"It's really crazy," said Dr. Christine Curry, an obstetrician-gynecologist at the University of Miami Health System who is treating a dozen patients with the virus, none of them infected locally. She said the staff "has been inundated with questions to the point that we are been doing education sessions for people who answer the phones about Zika so they can help the worried patients triage their concerns."

Zika tests are in such demand that Gov. Rick Scott ordered county health departments Wednesday to start offering them free to pregnant women statewide.

Juliana Duque, a nurse practitioner, said the waiting room at the Wynwood-area community health center where she works is filled with nervous pregnant patients. Her clinic has tested hundreds of women, some with possible symptoms and some without, but so far nobody has tested positive.

"We need to realize for how advanced we are and what great support we have, how vulnerable we can be. You are at risk. Things can happen. Even though you may not have the symptoms, you could be at risk and you need to be tested," Duque said.

Zika symptoms can include fever, rash, headaches, joint paint and inflamed eyes. Most adults report mild or no symptoms, and the illness is usually no big deal to those who are not pregnant or considering becoming pregnant. There is no vaccine.

A fearful Gabriella Acevedo, who is eight months pregnant, said she is not planning to leave her Wynwood home. Maria Cortez, who lives near Wynwood and is also pregnant, made an emergency appointment to get tested this week.

"I'm nervous," Cortez said.

Florida authorities have yet to find the virus in mosquitoes, which obtain it from the blood of infected people and then spread it when they bite someone else. Obstetricians are handing out kits that include bug spray with DEET, a strong chemical that pregnant women are usually told to avoid, plus tablets to kill insects in standing water, and condoms, since the disease can also be transmitted sexually.

"I may not know until the baby is born if there's been any effects," Ardente said, "so I just have to keep trucking along and hope for the best ... and enjoy my pregnancy to its fullest, because I've been waiting for this for a long time."

As Zika fears escalate, lawmakers point fingers from afar

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Zika escalates into a public health crisis and the number of mosquito-transmitted cases grows, Republicans and Democrats are pointing fingers over the failure by Congress to commit federal dollars to fight the virus.

President Barack Obama on Thursday sought to pressure congressional Republicans over the issue, encouraging voters to "call your members of Congress and tell them to do their job."

"The money that we need to fight Zika is rapidly running out. The situation is getting critical," Obama said at a news conference.

Yet lawmakers left Washington in mid-July for a seven-week recess without approving any of the $1.9 billion that Obama requested in February to develop a vaccine and control the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

Abortion politics played a central role in the impasse.

Republicans angered Democrats by adding a provision to a $1.1 billion take-it-or-leave-it measure that would have blocked Planned Parenthood clinics in Puerto Rico from receiving money.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, writing in USA Today on Thursday, did not mention that provision in blaming Democrats for blocking the legislation. Their obstruction, according to Ryan, R-Wis., is "a blatant ploy in an election year."

Also Thursday, 47 Senate Democrats called on Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to reconvene Congress and immediately address the Zika threat. They faulted GOP leaders for allowing "poison pill special-interest priorities" into the bill.

But McConnell has signaled he is in no rush to return. Writing in the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader on Monday, he criticized Democrats for balking at passing the bill. He said they'll get another chance after Labor Day when Congress is back in session.

Some important points to know about the issue:

ZIKA MONEY BEING SPENT "AGGRESSIVELY, PRUDENTLY"

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell warned lawmakers on Wednesday that her Zika budget is running out quickly. Without more money soon, she said, the "nation's ability to effectively respond to Zika will be impaired."

Burwell's letter sought to counter Republicans who've criticized the Obama administration for not using several hundred million dollars already in the budget for Zika prevention. The money was initially allotted for fighting Ebola but was redirected to address Zika.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said Tuesday that's there's no excuse for not spending money that Congress has provided. "Why are they holding that money back?" he asked.

Burwell said her agency is committed to using "scarce federal dollars aggressively and prudently." The Centers for Disease Control received the bulk of the $374 million "repurposed" for Zika domestic response efforts, she said, and it will exhaust the remainder of the money by Sept. 30.

Money for vaccine development will run out even sooner, she said. The second phase of clinical trials would be delayed as a result, and Americans would have to wait longer for a vaccine, according to Burwell.

"Now that the United States is in the height of mosquito season and with the progress in developing a Zika vaccine, the need for additional resources is critical," Burwell wrote.

DON'T EXPECT CONGRESS TO INTERUPT ITS RECESS

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said Congress does not have to interrupt its break to pass the bill. Republicans quickly dismissed his proposal.

Nelson's state has become the epicenter for Zika in the U.S. At least 15 people are reported to be infected with the virus in Miami's Wynwood arts district. These are believed to be the first mosquito-transmitted cases in the mainland United States.

Nelson said in a letter Tuesday to McConnell that the Senate could pass a bill through a procedure known as a pro forma session that requires the presence of only a few senators.

In Loving Memory of

†Josepha Aldan Dela Cruz

Lovingly Known as "Sepa Fala"

March 17, 1959 – August 02, 2016

In her new life, she now joins her parents:
Jose Ogo and Victoria Aldan Dela Cruz

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her children and spouses:
Edward Jr. and Sylvia
Eric and Sorena
Dorcia and Hasaan
Francisco and Vera
Thasia and Vincent
Christina and Felix
Georgena and Don Joseph
Rico Nartin
Martin Jr.

She will be greatly missed by numerous Grandchildren and Godchildren.

Brothers, Sisters and spouses:
Martin A. and Gina Dela Cruz
Lolita A. Cruz
Francisco A. and Priscilla Dela Cruz
Ramona A. Cruz and Saldy Catacutan
Antonetta DLC. and Jennifer Dela Cruz
Joseph Junior Dela Cruz
Joneva Dela Cruz

She is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of her soul are being celebrated each evening at 6:00 pm at St. Jude Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2016. Her remains will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel beginning at 7:00 am.
Holy Rosary will be recited at the memorial chapel at 7:30 am. Her remains will be escorted to St. Jude Church in Koblerville at 8:00 am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by her burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family

Life & Style

Olympic viewing: NBC's ratings drop, chaotic bike race

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 26.5 million people watched NBC's coverage of the Olympic opening ceremony, a sharp 35 percent drop from the record-setting viewership of the curtain-lifter in London four years ago.

The opening ceremony of the London Games was seen by 40.7 million people in the U.S. NBC suggested Saturday that the gap will be narrowed when details about time-shifted viewing and people who streamed Friday night's telecast on mobile devices become available in coming days.

"To compare linear TV viewership today versus four years ago isn't logical," NBC Sports spokesman Greg Hughes said.

The four-year difference was much kinder to NBC the last time around; the Beijing opening in 2008 reached 34.9 million people, according to the Nielsen company.

One of NBC's pre-games fears came true: viewership dropped off after the entrance of the United States team in the Parade of Nations. But because the Portuguese alphabet was used, the U.S. team (Estados Unidos) appeared much earlier in the broadcast than is typical.

AP

A spectator wearing the flag of Great Britain enters the viewing area for the finish line of the men's cycling road race final at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016.

NBC also front-loaded many of its commercial breaks early in the broadcast so there were fewer during the Parade of Nations. Judging by the harsh social media reaction, that may have backfired. It was a culture shock to binge-watchers and time-shifters who have become accustomed to television without commercials.

The ceremony also ran long, and wasn't helped by NBC's decision to air it on tape-delay so it started in prime time. The lighting of the Olympic cauldron wasn't shown until after midnight. A joke by Matt Lauer during the teams' entrance had a ring of truth: "Are we at Timor-Leste (East Timor) already?" he said. "Time is flying by."

The London Games proved a smash success for NBC. Viewers may simply be less interested in the Olympics from Rio—and that won't become clear for a few more days.

TAKE A LOOK: NBC's time-tested formula for its prime-time coverage concentrates on swimming and diving, gymnastics, track and field and volleyball. Still, the broadcast is the point of entry for the majority of viewers, and can do a better job reflecting the breadth of the event. Cutting some of the taped preliminary gymnastics competition at the start of Saturday's show in favor of a five-minute run-through of the day's biggest stories would be welcome. Fortunately, Bob Costas made note of American Virginia Thrasher's gold medal in an air rifle event later in the show.

TIGER?: NBC's Dan Hicks explored the relationship between Hungarian gold medal swimmer Katinka Hosszu and her intense husband/coach, noting that it struck some other swimmers as harsh. Then he crashed on the rocks of sexism by saying that "he has turned her into a tiger in the pool."

SORRY, TOM: Wise production choice to interrupt Tom Brokaw's taped report on the Amazon when a do-over was called for the finish of a beach volleyball match. It establishes in viewers' minds that live competition takes priority.

BIKE RIDE: The bicycle race won by Belgian rider Greg van Avermaet was a blast to watch, unfolding over several hours on NBC on Saturday, the kind of experience you can't get in prime time. It was a lesson for announcers Paul Sherwen and Christian Vande Velde to keep in mind that many viewers are new to their sport. The sheer chaos of the mountainous portions of the race, the course clogged with motorbikes, autos and spectators who ran alongside and even touched competitors, seemed shocking. That's not unusual in major cycling races, and the announcers didn't mention it.

WATER QUALITY: Given all the pre-games publicity about water pollution, it was wise of rowing announcers Leigh Diffey and Mary Whipple to discuss the conditions during a Saturday morning rowing heat, with details about the steps Olympians are doing to protect themselves. "It's almost on the back-burner," Whipple said. "It's a non-issue so far." Still, it's something announcers for all of the water sports should keep bringing up.

REFUGEE: The entrance of the 10-member team of refugees was a highlight of Friday's opening ceremony, so it was important for NBC's Jimmy Roberts to return to the story of these athletes during Saturday's telecast. "What a strange and wonderful concept—running toward something instead of running away," Roberts said. Roberts noted that none of the athletes are medal contenders, but it's worth keeping up with their stories as the Olympics go on.

LOOKAHEAD: The American women's basketball team begins its quest for a sixth straight gold medal with a preliminary-round game against Senegal.

Rowling and company debut original Harry Potter story

By LINCEE RAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts One and Two" (Scholastic), by J.K. Rowing, John Tiffany and Jack Thorne

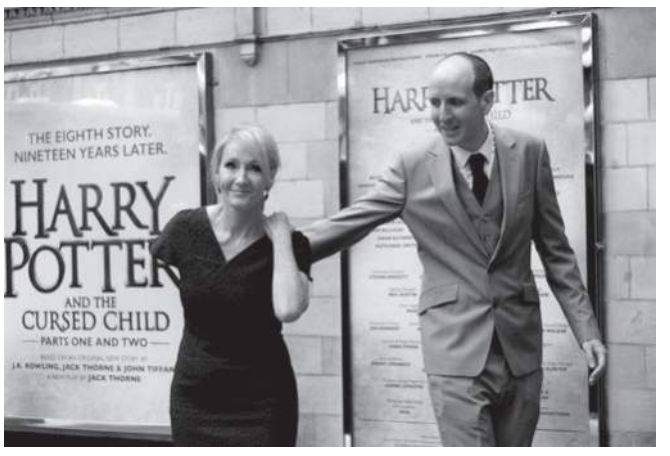
International best-selling author J.K. Rowling collaborates with John Tiffany and Jack Thorne to deliver "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," the highly anticipated eighth book in the Harry Potter series.

Based on original material that takes place 19 years after the Battle of Hogwarts, Potter fans get a glimpse into the lives of their favorite characters. But "The Cursed Child" isn't a novel. Rowling, Tiffany and Thorne have written a screenplay. It's the first of any Potter work to be officially presented on the stage—specifically London's West End. Although the bulk of a traditional novel is missing, the magic of the story and its characters is still there.

Being Harry Potter, the boy who lived, is a tough job. Can you imagine being his child? Albus Severus Potter must face the pressure of being the son of a very famous father every day of his life. Nothing comes easy for Albus, and when he's sorted into the Slytherin house, he knows that he may not be able to live up to his father's legacy.

Albus finds comfort in an unlikely confidant: Draco Malfoy's son Scorpius. The boys bond over a multitude of mishaps in their lives and soon form a solid friendship. Harry is concerned. But when his scar starts to sting again, he assumes the darkness that he feels and his disturbing dreams must be connected to the former Death Eater's son who is buddying up to his son. He must take matters into his own hands. Ironically, Albus decides to do the same.

With the help of a stolen time turner, Albus and Scorpius visit multiple past moments to try and change their fates. Naturally, chaos ensues. With each moment visited, the boys soon realize the challenges that were faced and the sacrifices that were made to make their lives better. Neither knew the power and darkness of Lord Voldemort before witnessing his wrath themselves. But will their meddling cause a permanent ripple in time?



AP

Writers J.K. Rowling, left, and Jack Thorne pose for photographers upon arrival at gala performance of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, at the Palace Theatre in central London, Saturday, July 30, 2016.

Rowling, Tiffany and Thorne use story lines and beloved characters in previous books to weave a new tale of magical adventure. We root for Albus and Scorpius to finally appreciate their impressive genealogy, and we smile as an unbreakable friendship is formed. We hold our breath, waiting for the mischief to be managed, and we pray that Harry, Hermione and Ron will summon the courage to save the day once again.

24 treated after eating drug-laced candy at rap concert

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Two dozen concertgoers in northeast Ohio suffered medical symptoms Saturday after they ate candy laced with a drug found in marijuana.

No fatalities were reported at the Ohio Dreams sports camp complex in Butler, about 60 miles northeast of Columbus, where the weekend-long EST 2016 rap music festival was being held. The concert was dubbed "The Last Weekend on Earth."

Maj. Joe Masi of the Richland County Sheriff's Department told the Mansfield News Journal someone began tossing out bags of the colorful candies Saturday at around 11 a.m. The packages contained about 20 pieces each and were marked "prescribed medibles" with a reference to a commercial candy brand, according to photos posted to social media.

Masi said each piece had "a very, very high dose of THC," the chemical that gives marijuana its mind-altering effects. Only one or two candies would get a user high, but some people were eating whole packages, officials said.

Lt. Joe Petrycki, commander of the METRICH regional drug task force, said early reports of concertgoers overdosing was too strong a description. He said THC usually gives people a sense of euphoria.

"They didn't lose consciousness," he said. "They just felt different."

Ambulances loaded with victims started arriving at OhioHealth in nearby Mansfield around 4 p.m., said hospital spokeswoman Nikki Workman.

She said 24 people were treated, including with the overdose antidote naloxone. The arrivals had ended by early evening.

"I feel like it's under control at this point," she said.

WEWS-TV reported the person giving out the candies was a man wearing a gray baseball cap with a red visor and a black T-shirt with a marijuana leaf on it.

The festival, headlined by Cleveland rapper Machine Gun Kelly, was set to continue through the weekend. About 3,000 people were at the music festival on Saturday.

42 hurt when railing collapses at Snoop Dogg concert

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—Upcoming concerts will go on as scheduled at an amphitheater where a railing collapsed during a Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa concert, injuring 42 people, promoters said Saturday.

Engineers were trying to figure out what happened at Camden's BB&T Pavilion, an outdoor venue with an indoor seating section and open lawn seating.

A partition separating the lawn from a secondary stage set up at the rear of the seating section collapsed around 10:30 p.m. Friday, causing people to fall roughly 10 feet onto the concrete below.

The collapse occurred as the rappers were gesturing to fans to come toward the small stage, officials said. As people rushed toward the railing, it collapsed.

AP

This photo provided by NBC10 shows caution tape placed across a gap in railing after a concert by Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa at the BB&T Pavilion in Camden, N.J., Friday, Aug. 5, 2016.

Live Nation, which operates the venue, announced Saturday that it had "secured" the impacted section of railing. The company also said in a statement that it was working with authorities and structural engineers to determine the cause of the collapse.

The concert company said an "I Love the 90s " concert Saturday—featuring Salt N Pepa, Vanilla Ice and other performers—and a Sunday show by Fifth Harmony would go on as planned.

One fan suffered a serious upper body injury and was hospitalized overnight, Camden County spokesman Dan Keashen said. That person, whose name was not disclosed, was released on Saturday morning.

Forty-one other people were treated for bruises and other minor injuries, though some had broken bones. Some Live Nation employees were among the injured, the company said.

Concertgoer Katie Colbridge said the show, which was about halfway finished, stopped abruptly when the accident happened. The performers were ushered from the stage moments after the collapse, and the show was later canceled.

An announcer urged the audience to remain calm as police and medics tended to the injured.

Camden city spokesman Vincent Basara said city fire crews and inspectors responded to the scene and were there Saturday morning. They were working to stabilize the railing where the collapse occurred and determine what repairs would be needed.

Prince estate administrator denies plan to sell Paisley Park

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The administrator of Prince's estate says it is not planning to sell Paisley Park, one day after asking a judge for permission to offer several Prince properties for sale.

A court filing on Friday had included Paisley Park, Prince's home and recording complex, among a list of properties that could be sold.

But on Saturday, Bremer Trust issued a brief statement saying: "Bremer Trust, the special administrator for the Prince Rogers Nelson estate, has no plans to sell either Paisley Park or the property referred to as the "Purple Rain" house." That Minneapolis house was filmed in Prince's 1984 movie.

AP

Manuela Testolini, center, Prince's ex-wife, exits the Hennepin County Family Court building in Minneapolis on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016.

Court papers filed by Bremer has asked a judge for permission to offer for sale nearly 20 properties owned by Prince worth an estimated $28 million.

Live concert of 'Game of Thrones' music set for Los Angeles

For anyone who can't wait for the next season of "Game of Thrones," a live concert of the show's music in Los Angeles next week might make the loss a little less bitter.

A full orchestra will perform music at the Hollywood Palladium on Monday, and composer Ramin Djawadi will take questions alongside cast member Isaac Hempstead Wright, who plays Bran Stark.

The event will also feature an interactive exhibit. Attendees will be able to walk through the Hall of Faces, see the Iron Throne, view costumes from the latest season, and examine Arya's sword Needle.

AP

This image released by HBO shows Isaac Hempstead, who plays Bran Stark, in a scene from "Game of Thrones."

Last month, HBO said the fantasy-thriller phenomenon will be coming to an end after Season 8. "Game of Thrones" won't be back with its seventh season until next summer. ***(AP)***

Kris Jenner involved in traffic crash in Calabasas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sheriff's officials say Kris Jenner has been involved in a traffic collision but did not require serious medical treatment at the scene.

Los Angeles Sheriff's Lt. Ed Winslow says preliminary information from the scene showed that Jenner's vehicle collided with a car that turned in front of hers while trying to get onto a freeway in Calabasas shortly after 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

Jenner is the ex-wife of Olympic gold medalist Caitlyn Jenner and mother of Kim Kardashian.

Winslow says Kris Jenner and the other driver both declined to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. He did not know the extent of any injuries, but said both vehicles had to be towed from the scene, and no citations were issued.

An email sent to Kris Jenner's company seeking comment was not immediately returned.

Son won't stand up to dad who puts his girlfriend down

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "Jake," for a year and a half. To put it mildly, his dad does not like me. He has never thought I was good enough for his son, and he doesn't like the fact that I have a daughter from an earlier relationship. He thinks I'm interested in Jake only for his money, even though I work a full-time job and Jake and I share everything equally, except my daughter's expenses. I pay for those myself.

When Jake and I attend family gatherings for holidays or birthdays, his dad refuses to say hello to me. He does, however, make derogatory or negative remarks about me to Jake. It's incredibly hurtful and demeaning.

I have tried bringing it up to Jake, and he agrees. But he will not address it with his dad because "Dad won't change." Can you help?

DISLIKED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR DISLIKED: I don't know how serious Jake is about you, but if he was in love with you and planned on marrying you, he would INSIST that, at the very least, his father treat you with respect. Dad won't change because his son isn't assertive enough to make plain that if he doesn't, he will be seeing less of the both of you. I can only hope that your child isn't on the receiving end of this kind of treatment, because if that's happening -- for both of your sakes —I'm advising you to end the romance with Jake.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to the love of my life for 21 years. He has helped me raise my two children to adulthood. Both have now moved away and have their own lives.

My problem started a year and a half ago, when my grandson was born. I live 750 miles from my daughter and her little boy, and have a standing invitation to see them as often as I want (every three to four months). It makes more sense for me to travel to see them than the reverse.

I have always invited my husband to come with me, but he refuses. He has now given me an ultimatum: I can see them no more than twice a year or he will divorce me. What do you say, Abby?

DUMBSTRUCK IN MAINE

DEAR DUMBSTRUCK: I say you have three choices—either work this out with the help of a marriage counselor, see your daughter and grandson only twice a year or start talking to a lawyer. I have a strong hunch there's more going on here than you have revealed in your letter -- and whether or not your husband agrees to counseling, you should go.

DEAR ABBY: I am an older woman who has been dating a very nice man for approximately seven months. I'm fashionable and take pride in my appearance. While my friend is clean and neat, he wears a baseball cap with all of his clothes—even his dress suits. I bought him a nice cap once and he was offended, so I returned it to the store.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Since he is good in so many ways, should I ignore this one quirk? I'd love to see him without the baseball cap when we go out.

FASHIONABLE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR FASHIONABLE: Have you tried asking him WHY he does this? Your friend may wear baseball caps with every outfit because he's bald or has thinning hair and is self-conscious about it. (Many men are.) If this gentleman has only one quirk that bothers you, you might be wise to consider that his attire is a reflection only on himself and not you.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

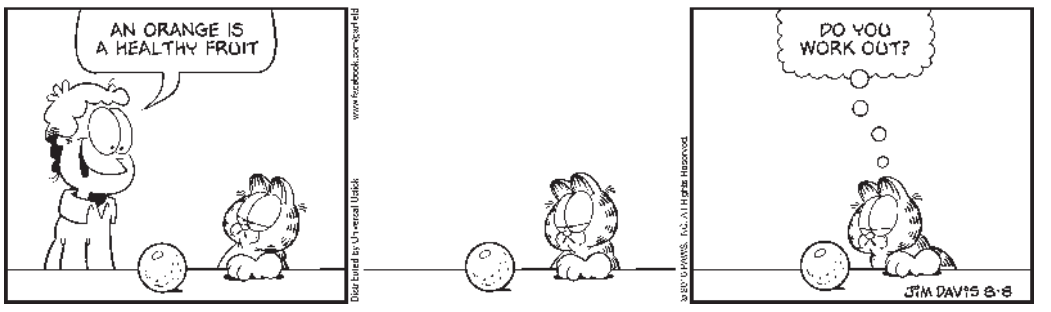
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

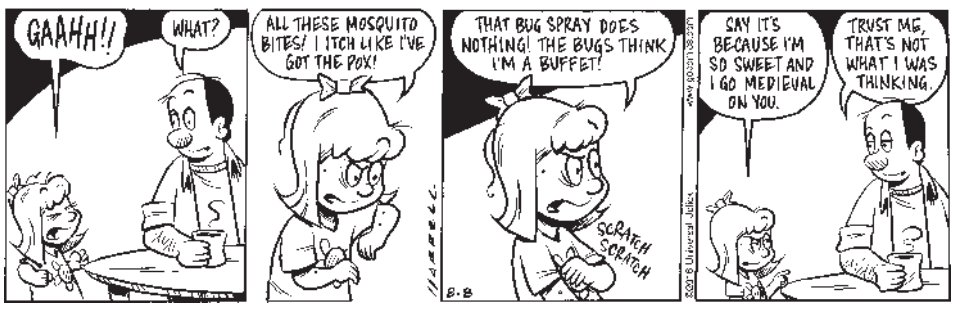
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


GAAHH!!
WHAT?
ALL THESE MOSQUITO BITES! I ITCH LIKE I'VE GOT THE POX!
THAT BUG SPRAY DOES NOTHING! THE BUGS THINK I'M A BUFFET!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SAY IT'S BECAUSE I'M SO SWEET AND I GO MEDIEVAL ON YOU.
TRUST ME, THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS THINKING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M STARTING MY MEMOIR. HOW DOES THIS SOUND?... "I WAS BORN IN A LOG CABIN AND USED TO WORK AS A RAIL SPLITTER."
NONE OF THAT IS TRUE! YOU'RE JUST RIPPING OFF ABE LINCOLN. YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
THEN I GUESS I SHOULD TAKE OUT THE PART ABOUT MY NICKNAME, "HONEST ENO?"

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

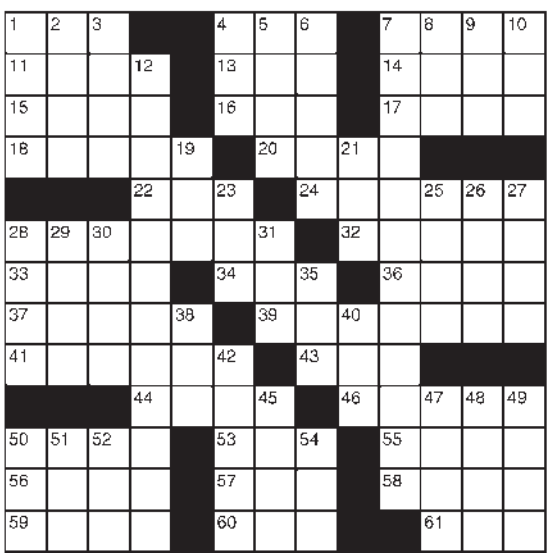
ACROSS
1 "Great Expectations" lad
4 Pallid
7 Oil cartel
11 House top
13 Pub order
14 Beehive State
15 Scott Turow book
16 Homer's cry
17 Tropical tuber
18 Stinky
20 Small combo
22 Shade tree
24 Develop
28 Meadow flowers
32 Places in the heart
33 Formerly, once
34 Transcript no.
36 Obey
37 Greek leader?
39 Refinement
41 Senior members
43 Tierra — Fuego
44 Actress Blanchett
46 Rich cake
50 Gambling game
53 Eggs
55 Kimono ties
56 Advertising award
57 Pep
58 — colada
59 Hoofbeat sound
60 Golfer Ernie
61 Trio after R

DOWN
1 Univ. teacher
2 Actress Skye
3 Bard
4 Bankroll
5 Oodles
6 India's first P.M.
7 Uninformed
8 School org.
9 Corn spike
10 Comedian Margaret
12 Escapes
19 Roman 551
21 Pig-poke link
23 Jo's sister
25 Raw minerals
26 Fibs
27 Miami- — County
28 Lifeless
29 Woody's son
30 Classic kids' game
31 Sunscreen letters?
35 Succor
38 Literary olio
40 Court divider
42 Range
45 Satan's forte
47 Baseball stats
48 Shade
49 Isaac's eldest
50 TV watchdog org.
51 100%
52 Carnival city
54 Early hrs.

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	O	S	M	O		C	A	T		S	E	M
B	R	A	I	N		O	I	F		T	R	I
S	F	N	S	E		I	O	A	F	F	R	S
		D	O	A	B	L	E		R	E	O	S
E	T	A		M	A	A		E	A	R	L	Y
K	E	L	P		G	H	A	S	P			
E	N	S	I	L	E		R	E	P	O	S	E
		N	O	I	T	F		F	X	P	C	
H	E	L	I	X		R	A	E		F	A	N
O	P	E	N		L	U	S	T	S	O		
W	E	D	G		E	S		H	O	R	S	Y
L	E	I		N	E	I		E	D	D		E
S	S	N		S	P	Y		L	A	S	T	S

Friday's answer 8 - 8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roger Federer, 35; Joely Collins, 44; Keith Carradine, 67; Dustin Hoffman, 79.

Happy Birthday: Do whatever it takes to swing things in your favor. A dramatic approach and emotional response will help you grab the attention you need to bring about change. The less time you give others, the easier it will be to get things done your way. Strategy and organization will help you maximize your gains. Be ready to expand your interests. Your numbers are 7, 12, 20, 24, 33, 41, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be aware of how long it will take to accomplish what you set out to do. Look at your choices, size up your situation and make a well-thought-out move. An emotional response will receive better results. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Network your way into a better position by finding solutions to existing problems. Make sound proposals and work alongside the people who are most likely to pull their own weight. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Organizing your day will give you the time you need to reevaluate what you should take responsibility for. Don't go over budget, even if someone is pressuring you to spend money. Be patient when dealing with family members. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't give in to demands when you should be writing your own rules. Your quick and practical approach to family matters and home improvements will spare you from being emotionally manipulated by others. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Work alongside the people who understand you and will encourage you to use your talents and show your strengths. Act decisively on your decisions and you will bring about positive changes. Be a mover and a shaker. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stand behind your actions and don't worry about the complainers in the room. An unusual opportunity will allow you to do things differently and gain greater success. Don't pretend to know everything, but show how quickly you can learn. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take ownership of what you do. Don't leave decisions or choices to someone else. Share your intentions and follow through with actions. Sitting on the fence will not impress anyone. Avoid unnecessary travel expenses. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Think before you act. Don't isolate yourself from a situation until you have exhausted all other possibilities. If you try hard, you will come up with an unusual solution. A change to your current living arrangements will help. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't change your plans because someone backs out. Minor mishaps will occur if you let other people's opinions lead you astray. Take care of personal business and avoid discussions that will result in a standoff. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't feel responsible for someone else's mistakes or problems. Offer suggestions, but don't get too involved. Put greater emphasis on taking care of personal issues involving health, financial or legal contracts. Refuse to let an emotional situation turn into a debacle. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change in the way you do things or a shift in your professional position can be expected. A chance to try something you've never done before will be inviting, but don't let it cause problems in your personal life. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Question partnerships that seem to be holding you back. Anger will not solve matters, but making changes will. If you don't like something, move on and do your own thing. Be creative and follow your heart. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, progressive and determined. You are original and thorough.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3		5				7	
		5	3	4		2		
2			6					4
				2		1	9	8
	4						2	
9	2	7		1				
1					5			6
		2		3	9	5		
	8				7		1	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	9	4	5	8	3	6
8	4	6	3	1	7	9	5	2
5	9	3	2	8	6	1	4	7
4	8	1	5	7	9	2	6	3
2	3	9	1	6	4	5	7	8
6	7	5	8	2	3	4	9	1
7	6	2	4	9	8	3	1	5
3	1	4	6	5	2	7	8	9
9	5	8	7	3	1	6	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

STALEMATE **Solution: 4 letters**

F	F	O	D	N	A	T	S	L	A	N	R	E	T	E
N	R	U	T	H	G	I	N	K	S	U	S	R	E	V
D	B	S	Y	A	L	E	D	E	W	O	L	L	A	A
N	S	O	K	K	O	O	R	D	M	A	T	C	H	S
E	E	T	A	N	F	R	E	E	C	E	I	P	Ⓓ	S
F	T	S	A	R	A	A	N	Q	U	E	E	N	Ⓘ	E
E	C	A	O	N	D	R	A	W	R	O	F	R	Ⓡ	H
D	H	K	M	L	D	E	Z	U	A	U	R	F	Ⓖ	C
S	E	I	O	K	N	S	L	U	T	P	O	S	E	A
E	C	C	K	E	C	E	T	I	G	R	F	R	M	S
R	K	L	C	L	S	E	L	I	C	Z	E	E	A	T
A	I	A	A	A	G	E	H	E	L	W	W	Y	G	L
U	N	G	L	N	D	E	K	C	O	L	B	A	D	I
Q	G	E	B	I	S	H	O	P	P	A	E	L	N	N
S	E	L	I	F	N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P	E	G

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 8/8

Agreement, Allowed, Bishop, Black, Blocked, Board, Castling, Checking, Checkmate, Chess, Deadlock, Defend, Delay, Endgame, Eternal, Files, Finale, Force, Forfeit, Forward, Free, Futile, Grid, Knight, Leap, Legal, Lose, Match, Pawn, Piece, Players, Position, Power, Queen, Ranks, Rare, Rook, Rules, Save, Squares, Standoff, Standstill, Turn, Versus, Zugzwang

Last Thursday's Answer: Medals

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- RAMON M. SAKISAT, aka MARTIN RAMON M. SAKISAT, and the ESTATE of FRANCISCA T. SAKISAT, Defendants.	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0080**

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 8, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 005 I 523, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Lands Registry as Document no. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 19, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 12th day of July, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Mohammad Shajahan Ali Petitioner, vs. Pensiliter Alipet Respondent,	))))))	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0346 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX 504501, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Job Vacancy Announcement

General Manager

- Minimum of 3 years experience with sauna management, for and ATV operations.
- Mandarin language fluency required.

Salary $6.55/hr.

R&H USA INVESTMENT CORP., LTD.
PMB 268A, PO Box 10002, Saipan, MP 96950
Call: 287-8855

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Electronic Technician – 5 yrs experience - $6.05/hr. Must be certified/licensed air-conditioning technician. Knowledgeable in satellite TV System, CCTV camera, alarm system, entertainment equipment & other electronics equipment – installation and service repair. Interested applicant must contact and submit resume to

Ally Electronics
P.O. Box 503534 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. # 287-9968/email-lanqiangl@hotmail.com

BENCAM ENTERPRISES, INC.
IS LOOKING FOR:

1 ACCOUNTANT
• At least 3 years experience

Send application to:
P.O. BOX 500073 SAIPAN MP 96950
Or call: TEL.: 233-7789

www.saipantribune.com

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 I Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP No.: 2016-CDA-07-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.
Call 235-NEWS

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	July 29, 2016	POSITION:	Human Resources Clerk
CLOSE DATE:	August 14, 2016	SALARY:	$6.05 - $7.05 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in human resources or administrative preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide support, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE:	July 29, 2016	POSITION:	Reservations Clerk
CLOSE DATE:	August 14, 2016	SALARY:	$6.05 - $7.05 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in hotel reservations preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE:	July 29, 2016	POSITION:	Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE:	August 14, 2016	SALARY:	$6.05 - $7.05 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Six (6) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE:	July 29, 2016	POSITION:	Steward
CLOSE DATE:	August 14, 2016	SALARY:	$6.05 - $7.05 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. One (1) position is currently available.

WORLD RESORT

ON THE JOB TRAINING

Our training will be for 3 to 6 months this coming Fall 2016. We need individuals that have flexibility and are committed to be in the workforce. Deadline for our submission to the positions listed below are due on August 14, 2016.

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Favre, 5 others enter Pro Football Hall of Fame

AP
Former NFL player Brett Favre poses with a bust of himself during an induction ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016, in Canton, Ohio.

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—They came in No. 4 jerseys and wearing cheeseheads. They chanted "Go Pack Go."

It was Lambeau Field transported to Ohio, and only one man could have caused it.

Brett Favre, welcome to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"Believe me, I am an extremely blessed man," Favre said Saturday night during an emotional speech spiced with humor and playfulness. "Play a game that I love so much for 20 years, to have all the wonderful things happen ... to share in that joy with you guys here tonight."

And when he choked up talking about his late father, Irv, and how Favre spent his career "trying to redeem myself" to make Irv proud, the crowd offered loud and comforting support.

Adding that "this is tougher than any third-and-15," he spoke of his new goal once his father died in 2003:

"I said to myself, I will make it to the Hall of Fame so I could acknowledge the fact of how important he was. I would not be here before you today without my father, there's no doubt whatsoever."

Football's most durable quarterback (a record 299 straight regular-season starts and 321 including playoffs) and one of its greatest passers, Favre was the first three-time MVP (1995-97) and an NFL champion in 1996. He played with four teams, defining toughness and fortitude, particularly in 16 seasons with the Packers, a franchise he helped revitalize.

A swashbuckler with no fear on the field—in addition to completing 6,300 passes for 71,838 yards and 508 touchdowns, he threw an NFL-high 336 interceptions—Favre was a three-time All-Pro and made 11 Pro Bowls. His enthusiasm and love for the game marked his career, which began in Atlanta in 1991 and ended with the Vikings in 2010. He spent 2008 with the Jets.

And he just might not be done.

"I am going to ask Mike McCarthy and Ted Thompson to let me play the first series tomorrow night," Favre joked.

Joining Favre in the class of 2016 were Tony Dungy, a trail-blazing coach and Super Bowl winner; one of his stars, Marvin Harrison; Kevin Greene; Orlando Pace; Ken Stabler; Dick Stanfel; and Ed DeBartolo Jr.

The first black coach to win an NFL championship, Dungy has been and a mentor to dozens of players and fellow coaches. Instead of concentrating on his role as a pioneer, he paid homage to those before him.

"Many of them never got the chance to move up the coaching ladder like I did, but they were so important to the progress in this league," Dungy said of the 10 African-American assistant coaches in the NFL when he broke in as a player in 1977. "They were role models and mentors for me and my generation ... without those 10 laying the groundwork, the league would not have the 200-plus minority assistant coaches it has today.

"And we would not have had Lovie Smith and Tony Dungy coaching against each other in Super Bowl 41. I feel I am representing those 10 men and all the African-American coaches who came before me in paving the way, and I thank them."

Dungy led the Indianapolis Colts to the 2006 NFL title. He also has a coaching tree that has featured Mike Tomlin, Herman Edwards, Jim Caldwell, Rod Marinelli, Leslie Frazier and Smith.

A disciple of Hall of Fame coach Chuck Noll, for whom he played on a Super Bowl winner, Dungy went 139-69 in 13 seasons, including 85-27 with the Colts from 2002-08. Before joining Indianapolis, Dungy turned around a perennial loser in Tampa Bay, taking the Buccaneers to the 1999 NFC title game.

"Be uncommon, not just average," he added before paying tribute to former NFL coach Dennis Green, who recently passed away. "That thought has stuck with me throughout my life."

Harrison's 143 receptions in 2002 are an NFL record. He retired in 2008 with 1,102 catches, now third behind Jerry Rice and Tony Gonzalez, 14,608 yards and 128 touchdowns. He had eight consecutive seasons with at least 1,100 yards receiving as Peyton Manning's prime target.

Harrison made eight Pro Bowls, was a three-time All-Pro, and missed only 18 games in 13 NFL seasons.

Pace was the blocking cornerstone of the Rams' Greatest Show on Turf that won the 1999 NFL title. The top overall draft pick in 1997, he helped turn running back Marshall Faulk and quarterback Kurt Warner into NFL MVPs.

Like Harrison, he had memories of the Canton shrine, too, recalling visiting the hall when he was 13.

"This occasion marks the fulfilment of each and every goal I have had," Pace said of his athletic career. "This became my first goal, and here I am 27 years later standing in Canton, Ohio, accepting this incredible honor."

Always a showman who also spent some time as a professional wrestler, Greene's 160 career sacks are third most in NFL history. In 15 pro seasons for four franchises, Greene played linebacker and defensive end with an unmitigated spirit.

"The best a football player can do is exhaust his passion, go out on his terms, and on the way having fun kicking people's butts with his brothers," Greene said.

In Greene's time with the Rams, Steelers, 49ers and Panthers he missed just a dozen games, and 10 times finished with at least 10 sacks, including 12 with Carolina at age 37.

"I am standing on the stage with the best ever," he said, Terrible Towels waving in the crowd, Steelers fans cheering when he mentioned Blitzburgh. "This is pretty cool."

Greene, whose father and brother served combat missions, drew a standing ovation from his fellow gold jackets and from the fans when he concluded by saluting the armed services.

Nicknamed "Snake" for his elusiveness on and off the field, Stabler helped the Raiders win their first Super Bowl and make it to four other conference championship games in a five-year span. One of the first great left-handed pro QBs, Stabler, who died last year, was elected by the seniors committee.

He was known for some of the biggest plays in Raiders history, including his intentional fumble forward in the closing seconds of a game against San Diego in 1978 that led to a touchdown—the "Holy Roller" play—and to a rule change.

Stanfel, who died last year at age 87, also was a seniors committee selection. He helped the Detroit Lions win the NFL title in 1952 and '53. He earned All-Pro honors five times in his seven-season career, four years with Detroit and three with Washington, before retiring at 31 and going into coaching.

"I think he is the guard of the century," said his presenter, Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy.

DeBartolo's 49ers became the first franchise to win five Super Bowls. He was known as much for his compassion and care for people throughout his organization as for building a winning football team.

"To share this stage with these gentlemen is more than humbling. We may be wearing the same jackets, but they have shoes I could never fill."

Jets' Revis downplays tiff with Marshall

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Throw in the towel. The fight's over.

Darrelle Revis downplayed his skirmish with New York Jets teammate Brandon Marshall, saying that they've moved on from it and everything is fine between them.

"Every year I've been in training camp, guys get after it," Revis said Saturday. "It's football, man. That's how I look at it."

Revis acknowledged Saturday that he inadvertently hit Marshall in the face/head area during a play in practice Friday.

"It's football, and I mean, things happen," Revis said. "He might jam, your hand might slip, whatever. You might hit somebody in the head, you might get poked in the eye or you might get your foot stepped on."

Marshall took exception to that, though, and the two jawed at each other the rest of the practice, with things coming to a head later when the wide receiver took a swipe at Revis.

"It's competition," Revis said. "We're not going to go into the back and forth of who does what. ... It's training camp and we're trying to get better as a team. We're two very competitive guys and this hasn't been the first time with us getting into it."

While they were popping off at each other, Marshall referenced DeAndre Hopkins, the Houston wide receiver who had a big game last season against Revis.

Marshall acknowledged that he used that to anger Revis, who he accused of saying disrespectful things to him, too. Revis brushed off that comment, as well as everything else Marshall said to him.

"Nah, it's fine," he said. "You've got to do more to get under my skin than that."

Revis added that he thought it was actually "good" for the two of them to go at it the way they did. He also said they would "definitely get after it again" in future practices.

"Brandon's not going to stop competing the way he competes," Revis said, "and I'm not going to stop competing the way I compete."

Marshall spoke to reporters Friday and said they "crossed that line." The receiver also acknowledged that he respects Revis as "the greatest" to play his position, and predicted that things would be smoothed over.

"Yeah, man, everything's fine," Revis said. "To me, it's just football. We're both trying to do a job here."

Coach Todd Bowles had no problem with the way Revis and Marshall went back and forth, but added that he doesn't want players swinging at each other. Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick thought the entire situation was no big deal.

"I mean, it was just a good, high-energy practice," Fitzpatrick said. "I think sometimes things can be overblown a little bit. That's all we took it as as players."

Revis and Marshall matched up only once during Saturday's late-afternoon practice, and there were no further heated situations. Bowles said that was just a function of the plays the team was running, and there was no intent to keep the two stars separated on the field.

Rockies close wild-card gap with win vs Marlins

DENVER (AP)—The Colorado Rockies avoided becoming a part of history and instead moved closer to another playoff run.

Ichiro Suzuki grounded out in his first try at 3,000 hits and the Miami Marlins, despite a 504-foot home run by Giancarlo Stanton, lost to the Rockies 12-6 on Saturday night.

Charlie Blackmon homered among his four hits and drove in four runs for the Rockies, who moved within three games of the Marlins and St. Louis for the second NL wild-card spot.

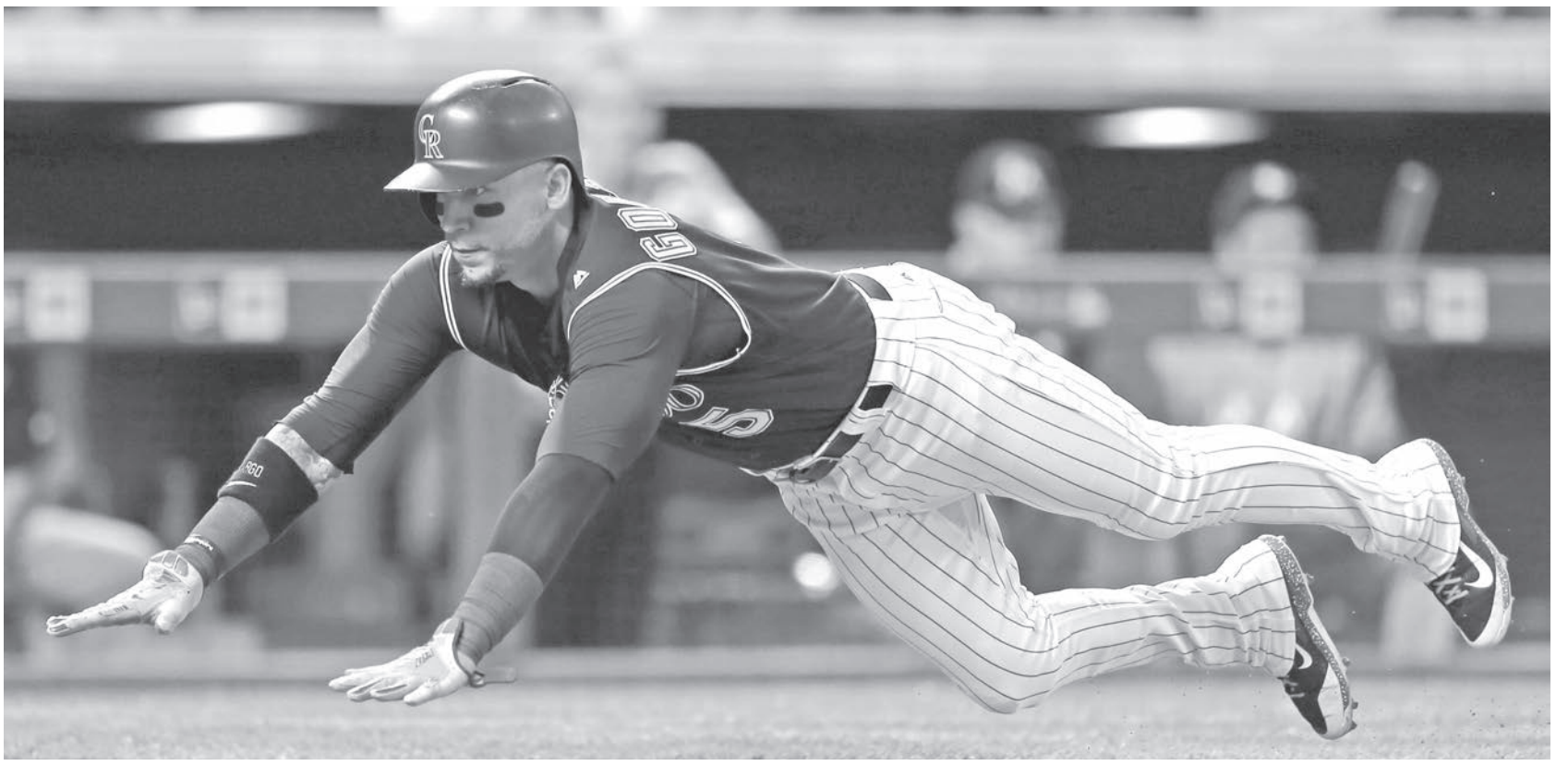
Blackmon came within a double of hitting for the cycle for the first time in his career.

"I'm not going to say I wasn't thinking about it," Blackmon said. "But if you had asked me beforehand would you take a hit? The answer is yes every time."

Rookie David Dahl had three hits to extend his hitting streak to 12 games and Daniel Descalso drove in three runs for Colorado, which is 15-7 since the All-Star break.

Colorado (55-55) is at .500 this late in the season for the first time since 2010, the last year they finished with a winning record.

"We got a long way to go," Rockies manager Walt Weiss said. "We got a lot more games to win. But it's been nice seeing our guys fight their way back in the mix."



AP

Colorado Rockies' Carlos Gonzalez dives to home plate to score on a David Dahl RBI-single against the Miami Marlins during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016, in Denver.

Cubs 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Jake Arrieta pitched eight innings of three-hit ball to get his first victory in over a month, leading Chicago past Oakland.

Arrieta (13-5) was 0-3 in his previous five starts and 1-4 since ending a 20-decision winning streak June 22. He struck out four and walked one on 108 pitches.

Tigers 6, Mets 5

In Detroit, J.D. Martinez threw Jay Bruce out at the plate on the final play of the game, enabling Detroit to hold off New York.

Miguel Cabrera drove in three runs for the Tigers. They have won 10 of 11 and trail AL Central-leading Cleveland by two games.

Brewers 15, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Ryan Braun tied a team record by driving in seven runs, hitting two homers and powering Milwaukee past Arizona.

Booed by Diamondbacks fans every time he came up to bat, Braun hit a pair of three-run homers and also had a sacrifice fly. He has 18 home runs this season and 25 career multihomer games.

Dodgers 3, Red Sox 0

In Los Angeles, newly promoted Ross Stripling and the Dodgers bullpen combined on a five-hitter, leading Los Angeles over Boston.

Adrian Gonzalez had three hits and drove in a run. Red Sox slugger David Ortiz played first base for the first time this season and made two nice catches, but the veteran designated hitter went 0 for 3.

Giants 7, Nationals 1

In Washington, Eduardo Nunez got four hits, including two triples and a double off Nationals ace Stephen Strasburg, and San Francisco beat Washington.

Brandon Belt homered, doubled and singled to help the Giants end Washington's four-game winning streak in a matchup of NL division leaders.

White Sox 4, Orioles 2

In Chicago, Omar Navarez's foul ball turned into a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning after a replay challenge, and Chicago beat Chris Tillman and Baltimore.

With the bases loaded and nobody out, Navarez hit a pop to shallow left off Mychal Givens. Third baseman Manny Machado tried to make an over-the-shoulder catch, but the ball dropped and umpire Mike Winters immediately ruled it foul. Replays showed the ball hit the foul line. Pinch-runner J.B. Shuck was awarded home and Navarez got a single.

Indians 5, Yankees 2

In New York, Corey Kluber put Cleveland's rotation back on track, Andrew Miller earned a save against the team that traded him last weekend and the Indians beat New York.

Mike Napoli, Jason Kipnis and Rajai Davis homered to help the AL Central leaders recover from an early two-run deficit. Kluber (11-8) struck out eight in eight innings of five-hit ball.

Mariners 8, Angels 6

In Seattle, Shawn O'Malley capped Seattle's comeback with a three-run home run in the seventh inning and the Mariners rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Los Angeles.

A few hours after the Mariners retired Ken Griffey Jr.'s No. 24 during an emotional pregame ceremony, O'Malley turned on an 0-1 pitch from Deolis Guerra and drove it into the right-field seats.

Pirates 5, Reds 3

In Pittsburgh, Ivan Nova pitched seven innings to win his first start with Pittsburgh, Homer Bailey struggled in his second start since having Tommy John surgery and the Pirates beat Cincinnati.

Nova (8-6) was acquired from the New York Yankees on Monday and gave up three runs and six hits with five strikeouts and no walks.

Royals 4, Blue Jays 2

In Kansas City, Danny Duffy outpitched Aaron Sanchez, stopping the Toronto ace's 10-game winning streak and leading Kansas City past the Blue Jays.

Duffy (8-1), who struck out a team-r ecord 16 and permitted just one hit over eight innings at Tampa Bay in his previous start, won his seventh straight decision.

Padres 9, Phillies 7

In San Diego, Padres starter Paul Clemens briefly wore the wrong uniform but still outpitched Jake Thompson in the Philadelphia right-hander's major league debut.

Clemens began with his usual No. 47, but was asked to change his jersey by the umpires because it had a foreign substance on it. Clemens switched to No. 91 with "Player" in the nameplate.

Rangers3, Astros 2

In Houston, Jonathan Lucroy homered twice, Carlos Beltran had a tiebreaking single and three hits and Texas beat Houston.

The first-place Rangers improved to 10-2 against the Astros this season and pulled 6 1/2 games ahead of Houston in the AL West.

Braves 13, Cardinals 5

In St. Louis, Freddie Freeman and Adonis Garcia hit three-run home runs and Atlanta got enough from Roberto Hernandez in his first start of the season to beat St. Louis.

The 35-year-old Hernandez (1-0), who previously pitched under the name Fausto Carmona, was the 14th starting pitcher used by the Braves this season, one off the franchise record in 1975.

Rays 7, Twins 3

In St. Petersburg, Evan Longoria, Bobby Wilson and Logan Forsythe homered to back starter Chris Archer in Tampa Bay's victory over Minnesota.

Archer (6-15) won for the third time in his last 15 starts. He allowed one run and three hits in six innings and struck out seven to regain the American League lead with 168.

Yankees announce news conference with A-Rod

NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees announced they will hold a news conference with Alex Rodriguez before Sunday's game against Cleveland.

In its announcement Saturday night, New York didn't detail the purpose of the gathering at Yankee Stadium. The team said general manager Brian Cashman and manager Joe Girardi will be made available following Rodriguez's news conference.

The 41-year-old designated hitter, a 14-time All-Star, has a .204 average this year with nine homers and 29 RBIs in 216 at-bats. He has all but disappeared from the Yankees in the last month, at first losing his designated hitter job against right-handed pitchers and then hardly leaving the bench. Girardi has at times become annoyed by repeated media questions over Rodriguez's status.

"No matter what happens, I'm at peace with myself," Rodriguez said Tuesday.

"I think I can contribute. I think I can help out in the clubhouse," he added, "but if not, I have two beautiful daughters waiting for me in Miami."

On Friday, the Yankees called a news conference with 36-year-old first baseman Mark Teixeira, who announced he will retire at the end of the season.

A-Rod has had just one start and seven at-bats in 14 games since July 22 as New York traded veterans Aroldis Chapman, Andrew Miller, Carlos Beltran and Ivan Nova, turning toward a youth movement. He is in a 4-for-36 (.111) slump and has struck out in five of his last six at-bats.

"I can't really tell you when I'm going to play him," Girardi said Thursday.

Rodriguez has just two home runs since June 3, leaving his career total at 696. He trails only Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on the career list.

A-Rod has a $20 million salary this year and is owed $20 million more in 2017, the final season of a $275 million, 10-year contract that was the baseball's largest when he signed it.

Rodriguez helped the Yankees win the 2009 World Series but had been in repeated controversy since he arrived ahead of the 2004 season in a trade with Texas.

He won his second and third AL MVP awards with the Yankees but has been a pariah for some since his 2009 admission he used performance-enhancing drugs while with Texas earlier in his career.

Plumeria Swim scheduled for Sept. 3

Marianas Visitors Authority's 2nd Annual Plumeria Swim on Saipan will be held on Sept. 3.

This year, the Plumeria Swim (formerly the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race) will be held in the waters off Kilili Beach with the course circling the historic World War II tanks in the lagoon.

The event has four race categories and welcomes swimmers with or without flippers. The cost for CNMI residents with valid ID is $20 for the 500m or 1,500m swim; $25 for the flipper race, or $60 per team for 2,000m relay swimming (up to four members per team). The flipper race requires swimmers to use wetsuits or life jacket and fins along with mask and snorkels.

The race will begin at 8:30am, followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony at the beach. Awards will be given for the top finisher overall, junior, and by age groups in both men and women's divisions.

MVA PHOTO

Participants in last year's MVA Plumeria Swim head out to the course in the waters off Pau Pau Beach.

"We're looking forward to building the Plumeria Swim into a strong signature event for the Northern Marianas that's why we have chosen the convenient and historic location of Kilili Beach for this year's event," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We're planning for a mixed turnout of both local and off-island swimmers as we've had in the past."

Mandatory orientation and the last day to register will be from 4:30-5:30pm on Sept. 2 at Paseo de Marianas. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

The event is jointly organized by MVA and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan. Additional sponsors include Japan Marine Recreation Association, Japan Recreational Diving Industry Association, Japan Scuba Association, Japan Wetsuits Manufacturers Association, University Life Sport Education Society, and Northern Mariana Diving Operators Association. Co- sponsors include Delta Air Lines, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, DFS, and the CNMI Dept. of Public Health.

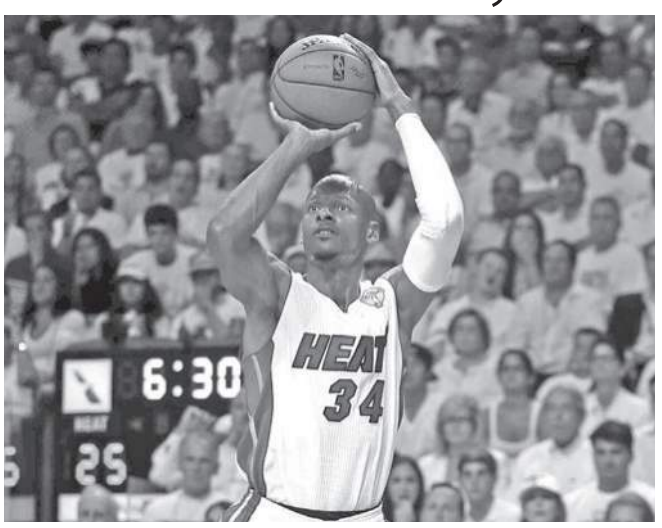
For more information or to secure an entry form, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or call Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or email ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Allen interested in comeback, eyes Celtics or Bucks

CONNECTICUT—Ray Allen is seriously weighing up a comeback, with the two-time NBA champion having held talks with former teams the Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks.

Allen—a 10-time NBA All-Star and Olympic Games gold medallist with the United States in 2000— has not played since he was part of the Miami Heat squad in 2014.

An 18-season veteran, the 41-year-old—who was pick five in the 1995 NBA Draft—feels he is in shape to finally suit up again following contact with the Celtics and Bucks, while the San Antonio Spurs and Los Angeles Clippers have emerged as possible destination.



AP

Ray Allen is seriously weighing up a comeback, having held talks with former teams the Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks.

"I would love going back to those places [Boston or Milwaukee] if it worked out because both teams are good, too," Allen said.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be championship-or-bust for me to go back to the NBA.

"I want to be in a situation where I thought I could help, play a little bit and help where they have good young talent."

Allen, who has averaged 18.9 points throughout his illustrious career but could officially retire should he not find a suitable role, added: "I worked out the other day in New York with a friend of mine. I was shooting, I was going through my routine just like I'd always done.

"I was a little winded, but I was able to go through my routine like I'd always gone through my routine and I didn't feel like I'd missed any time in doing what I was doing. For me, it's not 'Can I do it anymore?' It's how I feel after I do it. And yesterday, I felt great.

GAMES

From Page 28

ing funk, sultry samba and supermodel Gisele Bundchen sauntering to the tune of "The Girl from Ipanema."

Showcasing Rio's famed beaches and majestic mountains, the men's road race began under clear, sunny skies buzzing with helicopters - some carrying TV cameras, others from the military to provide security.

The brutality of the course became evident over the cobblestone sectors that rattled one cyclist off his bike, cost another his chain and forced Tour de France champion Chris Froome to replace his broken bike.

Van Avermaet out-sprinted Jakob Fuglsang and Rafal Majka on the long run to the finish at sun-splashed Copacabana Beach after Italy's Vincenzo Nibali and Colombia's Sergio Henao crashed while trying to navigate a corner on the final harrowing descent of the 6-hour race.

Goalkeeper Hope Solo came up big as the United States fought off France 1-0 in a group stage match at Mineirao Stadium. Carli Lloyd scored the game's only goal.

Solo became the first goalkeeper, male or female, to reach 200 appearances in international play. Despite the milestone, Solo was still peppered with jeers from the crowd, which was riled up about social media posts she made about the threat of the Zika virus.

Thousands of police and soldiers were patrolling the city amid concerns about safety.

On Saturday, there was a scare during the break at the eventing dressage at the Olympic Equestrian Center as a military-looking bullet pierced the roof of the tent and landed on the floor near startled reporters. The competition was not disrupted and nobody was hurt.

Brazilian military and police called it "an unfortunate incident," one that came shortly after bomb-disposal experts blew up an unattended bag near the finish line of the men's cycling race.

SBL

From Page 28

ry last Monday and will try to boot out Titanium early with another win today. Titanium, which caught the last bus to the semifinal round after beating the Falcons in a playoff game two weeks ago, 3-2, will attempt to hand the Bears their first loss of the season to remain in contention. The Bears had a 14-game sweep in the regular season before outlasting Titanium in their semis series opener.

The other Final Four pairing—defending champions and the second-seeded GSM Brewers and the BSI Aces—will have its Game 2 tomorrow. The Best Sunshine International-backed Aces pulled off an upset against the Brewers in Game 1 of their semis showdown after posting a 4-2 victory last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, over at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the 5th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League will also resume its playoff round.

The league started the playoffs with a pair of matches in the youth division last Tuesday. The top-ranked Joel and the second-seeded Jonah won their semis games against Nahum, 88-78, and Ezra, 89-57, respectively, to arrange their winner-take-all title match this weekend.

After the youth matches, the Gen Cup was supposed to start the playoffs in the adults division last Thursday. However, the two games were called off, as the Ada gym was flooded due to heavy rains that started last Wednesday. The pair of matches last Saturday were also canceled as the tropical depression that brought continues rain on Saipan turned into Tropical Storm Omais.

The four quarterfinal matches will be played tonight and tomorrow. Today's pairings are Gideon versus Joshua (first match) and Jeremiah against Daniel (second game), while tomorrow, the top-ranked Samuel will take on last-seeded Isaiah in the first game at 6:30pm and Ezekiel and Caleb will play in the second match at 8pm. The single-elimination playoffs will continue this week and organizers are hoping to hold the finals this Saturday.

Besides the Gen Cup and SBL playoffs, games in the 2016 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League and an ocean swim in Pau Pau Beach were also called off.

The last three matches in the regular season of the Tan Holdings caging will be played this Friday, while the new schedule of the ocean swim has yet to be announced.

TOC

From Page 28

pars on the last two holes to fall short in their title bids in the Championship Flight after ending up with similar scores of 2-over par 74. The junior golfer went on to win the scorecard tiebreak to get the runner-up honors, while Hardwicke dropped to third place. Lee was also behind by a stroke against Poe after the first nine holes with the former logging an even par 36 before slowing down in the last with his 38. Hardwicke, on the other hand, fared better on the back, matching Poe's even par 36 to make up for his 2-over 38 on the front.

"Honestly, I thought I was down after saving par on No. 17, so I told my group I had to birdie the last two to be safe and at least have a playoff," said Poe.

Joining Poe, Lee, and Hardwicke in the Championship Flight were Franco Santos (75), Woo Seung kang (76), Brent Salas (76), J.J. Atalig (79), Feng Chun Jin (81), William Retardo (88), and Harry Nakamura (200).

Meanwhile, Noriko Togawa was the lone player in the Ladies Flight to score in the 70s with her 5-over 77 for a three-shot victory against 2015 champion Sun Suk Kim and her daughter Yuko. Kim and Yuko had similar gross scores of 8-over par 80, but the former won the tiebreak for second place.

Yesterday's victory was Noriko 10th overall and just first since winning her ninth in the 2008 edition of the TOC. The older Togawa remains the winningest player (including the men's field) in the TOC and she gains more cushion against former junior golfer Leina Kim, who had six titles (in 2007 and from 2010 to 2014) in the same competition.

Noriko shot a 1-over par 37 on the front nine to get a good lead against Kim (5-over 41), going into the last nine holes. The eventual champion then fired a 4-over par 40 on the back to keep her lead despite Kim's better performance (39). Yuko had the best score in the last nine holes with her 2-over 38, but her 6-over 42 on the back cost her the win.

Besides the Ladies and Championship flights, there were four other divisions played in yesterday's tournament and results will be reported later this week.

Last weekend's one-round TOC was only the second time the annual event was shortened since its inception in 1996. In 2009, golfers played only a couple of holes in the first round before organizers called it a day due to rain. With the incomplete opening round, only the scores in the second were counted and incidentally, a golfer from Guam, too (Louie Sunga) won the Championship Flight, prevailing in a playoff against Korean Yongman Bae.

US men romp past China in opening game

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Kevin Durant looks ready to lead a new group of Americans to the gold-medal podium.

Durant picked up right where he left off in the 2012 Olympics with 25 points, and the U.S. men's basketball team routed China, 119-62, on Saturday night in its opening game.

The new Golden State Warriors star scored 30 points four years ago in the gold-medal game, when the Americans held off Spain for the championship.

AP

United States' DeMar DeRozan (9) drives to the basket over China's Zhao Jiwei (4) during a men's basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016.

Only he and Carmelo Anthony returned from that team, but the new guys were plenty ready for their Olympic moment.

"We just wanted to send a statement to the rest of the world," Anthony said. "Come out this first game and let everybody know that we're focused, we're locked in and we're about business on this trip."

DeMarcus Cousins added 17 points and Paul George 15 for the U.S., which is a heavy favorite to win a third straight gold and won't change any opinions after this performance.

LeBron James and Chris Paul passed on searching for more gold with Durant and Anthony, and plenty more top players who would have been on this roster also declined. But coach Mike Krzyzewski said this squad has already bonded as much as any of the three U.S. teams he has led in the Olympics.

"Just because they aren't here today, we've got another batch of guys that's walking around on the streets saying they want to win a gold medal and we all have something in common," Durant said. "It's cool to have a fraternity of guys who have won a gold medal. It's rare."

Durant was 10 of 14 from the field and made five 3-pointers.

"When you get hot, you want to see your bench get excited for you," Durant said. "That's better than making the shot, to be honest with you. When I saw my teammates get excited for me, that kept me going."

Tougher competition might come later, but it should be an easy start for the Americans. They play again Monday against Venezuela, another team they beat easily in exhibition play.

Anthony finished with nine points and made by history becoming the first U.S. male to play basketball in four Olympics. He will become the first three-time gold medalist on the men's side if the U.S. wins.

The 32-year-old veteran tied LeBron James and David Robinson by playing in his 24th game in the Olympics.

The Americans beat the Chinese twice in exhibition play by scores of 106-57 and 107-57, and this one was even less competitive.

Women lead way for Team USA

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Serena. Simone. Solo.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that some of the best-recognized names on the U.S. Olympic team belong to women. The Americans brought 292 women to Rio de Janeiro, an Olympic record for a single country. Their first gold medal of the games—won Saturday by a woman, of course: Ginny Thrasher in shooting. Reporters from The Associated Press predicted the United States would capture 128 medals—69 by women and 59 by men.

Among those winners could be: Serena Williams, who already has four gold medals and could win two more—one in singles and another in doubles, along with her sister, Venus; Simone Biles, who has a legitimate chance to pull in a record five gold medals from gymnastics; Hope Solo, the goalkeeper for the soccer team, which is trying for its fourth straight Olympic gold medal; and Katie Ledecky, a medal contender in five swimming events.

This is the second straight Summer Games in which women have outnumbered men on Team USA. But when the number reached 292 for this Olympics, the Americans had a record. It was three more than China entered into the Beijing Games eight years ago.

It's a surge that has peaked this decade, now 44 years since the passage of Title IX, the law that opened doors for women in college sports around the country. Many competing in the Olympics are either in, or about to become part of, the third generation of women to compete at the college level since the law was passed.

"We got a great head start in the U.S. because of the support they had in their schools and their colleges growing up," said Scott Blackmun, CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee. "You look at 10, 15 years after the passage of Title IX, how great an impact that started having. You combine it with the collegiate structure we have and that helps define the success."

No women's sport has become more high profile than basketball since Title IX. The U.S. has won six of seven gold medals since 1984—about the time the true impact of the law started being felt. Another win this year would strike a poignant note in the wake of the recent passing of Pat Summitt, the longtime Tennessee coach who pioneered the surge in women's hoops over decades.

"I look at the younger generation of women's basketball players and there is such a tremendous boat load of talent from, say, 10 years ago," said Geno Auriemma of UConn, who is coaching the U.S. team.

He said Title IX led to the full funding of college sports across the board, which has led to the U.S. catching up in a few sports, like volleyball, and dominating in others.

"We've talked about water polo, and how much we've had players before us pioneer our sport," said Maggie Steffens of the defending-champion U.S. team. "Women's water polo wasn't even in the Olympics until 2000. And we had women who, in '76 and the '80s and '90s, dreamed of being in the Olympics and never got that opportunity, but made sure it happened for us. We want to make sure we do the best we can to represent those women."

Women's soccer has enjoyed far more success than the men's game in the United States. The men didn't qualify for the Olympics. The women are favored to win gold for the fifth time since they were brought onto the Olympic program in 1996. On Saturday, Solo became the first goalkeeper to appear in 200 games in international play.

Medal-contending women fill the U.S. roster—young and old and in sports ranging from archery to weightlifting.

At 16, hurdler Sydney McLaughlin will be the youngest to compete for the U.S. Olympic track team since 1972.

Rio delivers a simple, but spirited, Olympic welcome

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—What it lacked in flash, Rio made up for with feeling.

With a limited budget, the consequence of a biting recession that roiled preparations for South America's first Olympics, Brazil laced its high-energy opening party for the games of the 31st Olympiad with a sobering message of the dangers of global warming.

Graphic projections of world cities being swamped by rising seas set Rio de Janeiro's otherwise fun and festive gala apart from the more self-congratulatory and lavish celebrations that Beijing and London wowed with in 2008 and 2012.

"The heat is melting the icecap," a voice intoned in the Maracana Stadium. "It's disappearing very quickly."

But it wasn't all doom and gloom. After all, nowhere parties quite like Rio.

Supermodel Gisele Bundchen shimmered to the tune of "The Girl from Ipanema." Fireworks formed the word "Rio" in the skies. The colossal Christ the Redeemer statue was bathed in Brazilian yellow and green. Dancers, all hips and wobble, grooved to thumping funk and sultry samba.

After one of the roughest-ever rides from vote to games by an Olympic host, the city of beaches, carnival, grinding poverty and sun-kissed wealth celebrated Brazil's can-do spirit, biodiversity and melting pot history.

The crowd roared when Bundchen sashayed from one side of the 78,000-seat arena to the other, as Tom Jobim's grandson, Daniel, played his grandfather's famous song about the Ipanema girl "tall and tan and young and lovely."

In a video preceding the show, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the games "celebrate the best of humanity" and appealed for an Olympic truce, calling on "all warring parties to lay down their weapons" during the two weeks of sporting achievement.

There were times after the International Olympic Committee selected Rio ahead of Chicago, Tokyo and Madrid in 2009 when it seemed that the city of 6.5 million people might not get its act together for the world's greatest sporting mega-event. The spreading health crisis of the mosquito-born Zika virus kept some athletes away. Promises to clean up Rio's filthy waters remained unfulfilled. The heavy bill for the games, at least $12 billion, made them unpopular with many. Heavily armed security stopped a small group of protesters from getting close to the stadium ahead of the ceremony.

But with more than a dash of "gambiarra," the Brazilian art of quick-fixes and making do, Rio is ready.

Just.

"Our admiration is even greater because you managed this at a very difficult time in Brazilian history. We have always believed in you," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

Favre, 5 others enter Pro Football Hall of Fame

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Former winners top shortened TOC

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Championship Flight winner Daryl Poe, center, is joined in the photo by, from left, T Galleria general manager Milan Rabold, Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua, Titan Imports' John Antenorcruz, and DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce during the awards ceremony for the 21st Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Guam's Daryl Poe and Saipan's Noriko Togawa won their respective divisions in the shortened 21st Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions.

Poe prevailed in the centerpiece Championship Flight of the annual tournament, which was forced to play only one round instead of the usual two at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort due to heavy rains. The Guam golfer shot a 1-under par 71 on the east course yesterday to beat nine other players in his flight and claim his second TOC win. Poe ruled the 2013 edition of the most competitive golf tournament in the CNMI, edging Korean Geon Jun Lee in playoffs. He then bowed to Lee in 2014 and placed third last year.

"It was a tough win because there were a lot of strong and competitive junior golfers and veterans in my flight," said Poe, who won by three strokes against 12-year-old and last year's A Flight champion Dong Young Lee and former CNMI national team member Adam Hardwicke.

"As for the course condition, because it rained yesterday (Saturday), the greens are soft and it worked to my advantage a bit. However, the wind was strong and I had to be very smart in hitting my shots. I picked the right time and right target because I don't want to take a lot of risks. I was not too aggressive on my approach and I took my time, hitting short, but sure shots," said Poe, who clinched the win when he birdied the last two holes—the par 5, 545-yard No. 18 and par 4, 374-yard No. 1.

Before his back-to-back birdies, Poe, who had a 35 on the front nines and 36 on the back, was just ahead by a stroke against Hardwicke and Lee, who both saved

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SBL, Gen Cup playoffs to resume

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Baseball and basketball games that were called off last week due to heavy rains will resume today.

In the playoff round of the 2016 Saipan Baseball League, Game 2 of the best-of-five semis series between the Chalan Kanoa Bears and Titanium will be played tonight, weather permitting, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The pennant champions Bears lead the short series after escaping with a 10-9 victo-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Nahum's Chris Sacdalan pulls up for a jumper against two Joel defenders during the playoff game in the youth division of the Gen Cup last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Gen Cup will start its playoff games in the adult division tonight.

Games begin in full, with US teen on target for 1st gold

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— The Olympics began in full with the first gold medal going to an American teenager by the fearsome name of Thrasher. There was plenty of rough riding on a punishing cycling course, a smooth opener for Kevin Durant and company, and a difficult loss for Venus Williams.

The American men's basketball team romped past China 119-62 Saturday night behind Durant's 25 points. Although it was a blowout, bettors in Las Vegas, where wagering on the Olympics is legal for the first time since 1998, were undoubtedly on edge until the final minutes.

AP
Virginia Thrasher of the United States celebrates winning a shoot-out to secure the gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle event at Olympic Shooting Center at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016.

Japan's Kosuke Hagino won the men's 400-meter individual medley in the marquee race in Saturday night's swimming program, albeit a bit less flashy without two of the sport's biggest stars. Michael Phelps, the world record holder and two-time Olympic champion, dropped the race for his fifth games and defending champion Ryan Lochte didn't qualify.

Virginia Thrasher, a 19-year-old who once had her heart set on figure skating, captured the 10-meter air rifle Saturday. Greg Van Avermaet of Belgium won the grueling road race that left cyclists with a myriad of injuries.

Riders rolled off to the sound of crashing waves on Copacabana Beach on a steamy morning hours after Brazil's high-energy opening ceremony featuring thump-

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